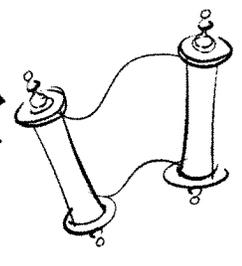


St. Paul Epistle



The Monthly Newsletter of St. Paul Lutheran Church

April 2026

Grow in Grace

*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*

2 Peter 3:18

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write this, we are nearing the halfway point of our Lenten pilgrimage. I have received many positive comments regarding our Lenten series *Grace Upon Grace*. I am thankful that so many of you are being blessed and edified by taking a closer look at how God was gracious to His people throughout the Scriptures, despite their sin and unworthiness, and making applications as to how God is and always will be gracious to us.

As the apostle Peter nears the end of this earthly life, about to die a martyr's death, the final verse of Scripture that he authors under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit is an exhortation to "grow in grace." But what does this mean to grow in grace? Grace is God's undeserved blessing and favor, which is totally undeserved. It's not as if growing in grace means that somehow we can get more grace or that there's a way for God to be more gracious to us than He already is. So, what does it mean to **grow in grace**?

- **A deepening knowledge of God's Word:** Peter connects growing in grace with growing in knowledge. The more we are in the Word the more we come to know and appreciate God's abundant grace. This is what has been occurring for many during our Lenten series. As a brother in Christ recently shared with me, "I always knew God was gracious, but I now realize that God is even more gracious than I ever thought about before."
- **Active participation in the means of grace:** God's grace is not some abstraction, a gift that is floating around out there that we have to find or obtain by our own effort and striving. Instead, God chooses to bestow His grace through means: His Word—written, spoken, preached, taught, shared, and sung, His Baptism, and His Holy Supper. The means of grace are where we go to receive God's gracious gifts of forgiveness, life, salvation, strength, peace, and many more gifts (grace upon grace!). Thus, to grow in grace is to desire to receive these gifts of grace faithfully and frequently.
- **Spiritual Maturity:** As we grow in knowledge and as we receive God's grace through His appointed means, the result is spiritual maturity. Just as a child grows into an adult, by God's grace, we grow spiritually with a deeper faith and a more mature Christian life. This spiritual maturity is exhibited in two ways: humility and living graciously.
- **Humility:** As we grow in grace, we realize that we are nothing, and God is our everything. We don't depend on our personal pride or human capabilities. Instead, we recognize our absolute dependence on our God, His salvation and strength, His countless gifts of grace.
- **Living Graciously:** God's grace transforms and empowers us to live graciously, to be Christ to others by extending mercy, love, and forgiveness. Freely have we received God's grace. Empowered by the Spirit, we now freely give!

As we continue our Lenten pilgrimage, I pray that this sacred season is a time for you to grow in both the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and to live graciously. As we near Holy Week, consider who you can invite to join us for our many services and special activities so many more can receive the gifts of God's grace freely given.

Our celebration of God's grace continues on Easter and throughout the fifty days of the Easter season. On Sunday, April 19th, I encourage you to attend our confirmands Confession of Faith during the Sunday School hour as they share how they have grown in grace and knowledge during the past two years of confirmation instruction. On Sunday, April 26th, our six confirmands offer their Confession of Faith presentations during the Sunday School hour and will be confirmed and receive their first Communion at the 10:45 AM service. Our prayer for these young men and women is that they would continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

God's richest blessings as you receive and rejoice in your Savior and His grace upon grace!



6045 East State Street
Columbus, Indiana 47201
Phone: 812-376-6504
www.stpaulcolumbus.org

Pastor Douglas Bauman
pastorbauman@stpaulcolumbus.org

Pastor Jeff Patterson
pastorpatterson@stpaulcolumbus.org

Pastor Daniel Fickenscher
pastorfickenscher@stpaulcolumbus.org

Kantor Daniel Mau
kantor@stpaulcolumbus.org

DCE Jen Probst
director@stpaulcolumbus.org

Administrative Specialist Mackenzie Wint
mackenzie.wint@stpaulcolumbus.org

Financial Specialist Rachel Fohne
rachel.fohne@stpaulcolumbus.org

Social Media Coordinator Andrea Cotton
socialmedia@stpaulcolumbus.org

Renee Strietelmeier
Latino Outreach Coordinator
riskplants@yahoo.com

St. Paul Early Childhood Ministry
Jen Probst, Director

Anne Wiltsey, Kindergarten Teacher
Michelle Schultz, Alyssa Schultz, and
Glory Wofford, Preschool Teachers

Gayla Alesandro, Sarah Lewis, Laurie Schultz,
Claudia Sims, Caroline Wilcox, Amy Yeley
Teacher Assistants

Sunday Schedule

Special Schedule for Easter Sunday
Festival Services at 7, 9, and 10:45 AM

8 AM Divine Service

9 AM Radio Worship Service/91.1 FM

9:10 AM Fellowship

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:45 AM Divine Service

English and Spanish

12:15 PM Spanish Sunday School

7 PM Lutheran Hour/91.1 FM

Prayer Chain

Bonnie England

Phone: 812-447-7895



Musical Notes

Scatter the darkness, break the gloom;
Sun, reveal an empty tomb
Shining with joy for all our sorrows,
Hope and peace for all tomorrows,
Life un eclipsed by doubt and dread:
Christ has risen from the dead!

Christ is risen! He IS risen, indeed—alleluia! We will now live for all eternity with our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, by God's grace through Christ's resurrection. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!!!

LSB 481, Scatter the Darkness, Break the Gloom, is from the pen of Pastor Stephen Starke. Pastor Starke served at St. John Lutheran Church (Amelith) in Bay City, Michigan, and has written over 200 hymns during his lifetime. He proclaims the truths of the Gospel through hymnody, which will be sung both now and by future generations. His hymns are always both based and focused on God's Word, supporting the Gospel through the church's song.

The opening stanza of LSB 481 depicts the resurrection in terms of light triumphing over darkness—both in the physical sense of sunlight displacing the dark of night, and in the joy of the light of Christ shattering the darkness of sin and death. We walk in the light of our risen Savior!

Bearing the standard from on high
As the Lamb of God to die;
He who for us, so cruelly treated,
Lives again our foes defeated!
Where is your sting, O death and grave?
Christ has shown His strength to save!

Stanza two shows the Lamb of God as both the sacrifice and Savior of all. Death is defeated by the Lamb, who suffered and died so that we might live. The meekness and humility of the sacrificial Lamb is contrasted by the all-powerful strength of Christ in conquering death and the grave.

Banners of triumph, be unfurled!
Trumpets, sound throughout the world!
Crying and sighs, give way to singing;
Life from death, our Lord is bringing!
Let there begin the jubilee
Christ has gained the victory!

Christ has won the battle over sin and eternal death! The victory is ours through our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!! Christ is risen—alleluia!

Dan



Sr. Handbells rehearse on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:00 pm.

Sr. Choir rehearses on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:15 pm.

Jr. Choir rehearses on Sunday mornings from 9:30-9:50 am.

Small Group Handbells rehearse on Mondays from 10:00-11:00 am.

Choristers, Jr. Handchimes, and Jr. Handbells are done for the season. I'm looking forward to the new season beginning in August!

If you are interested in more information or have questions, please contact me at, (mobile) 812-927-9319, or email

kantor@StPaulColumbus.org

Thank you!



Reaching out with Christ's love to serve and grow through early childhood education

CARNIVAL

May 2nd marks the 5th year that our ECM Board has planned to host St. Paul's annual CARNIVAL. This CARNIVAL is a free event that provides an opportunity for our church, school, and community to come together for some fun and fellowship. This spring activity features activities similar to a family-friendly tailgating party or a trunk or treat. Activities will be held in a closed off section of the church parking lot.

The ECM Board is looking for individuals or organizations to host a game or activity for the CARNIVAL. Activities already being provided include: baby goats, face painting, cake walk, limbo, and a bouncy house. We will have a Hawaiian theme for the day, but feel free to host activities not related to the theme. Activity ideas include cornhole, pass out candy/trinkets from a decorated car trunk, hula hoop contest, or whatever you can imagine. Please contact Andrea Cotton, Marissa Younger, Emily Linke, or Jen Probst to let us know your ideas. You can also sign up on the piece of paper in the Gathering Space or through the following link: <https://forms.gle/DWWRZWYoNHZTouzi8>. Please help us invite others to come and join us on this fun day!

~Blessings, Jen Probst, ECM Director

- 3** – Good Friday Family Worship & Together as Family Activity
- 7** – Lambs Chapel
 - Staff Meeting
- 8** – Kindergarten and Doves Chapel
- 22** – Kindergarten Assessments
 - Bookmobile
- 25** – ECM Board Meeting
- 30** – Camp Lakeview Field trip

ECM Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 25th at 6:00 PM

Holy Week Happenings

ECM students are invited to join with our Sunday School children to commemorate the events of Holy Week through a variety of different activities. On Palm Sunday (March 29), all children are invited to join us for a palm processional during the worship services and stay after the 10:45 AM worship service for an Easter Egg Hunt. We also want everyone to join us for a family oriented Good Friday worship service, beginning at 10 AM on April 3. Families can remain after the service for a special Together as Family activity in the Fellowship Room.

ECM Registration

It is not too late to be a part of our school family for the 2026-2027 school year! We are still enrolling 3-year-old Lamb and Kindergarten students. Families interested in the 4-year-old Doves class can place their name on a wait list. Situations can change for our families, expectedly. It is definitely worth putting your name on the list for an opportunity for a spot opening. Please go to <https://www.stpaulcolumbus.org/ecmregistration> to begin the process. If you would like a tour of the school or find out more about our early childhood ministry, please call 812-376-6504 or email (director@stpaulcolumbus.org).





Christian Education

Daily April Bible Readings					
1	Judges 6-7	11	1 Samuel 13-14	21	2 Samuel 1-4
2	Judges 8-9	12	1 Samuel 15-17	22	Psalms 6, 8-10, 14, 16, 19, 21
3	Judges 10-12	13	1 Sam 18-20; Psalms 11, 59	23	1 Chronicles 1-2
4	Judges 13-15	14	1 Samuel 21-24	24	Psalms 43-45, 49, 84-85, 87
5	Judges 16-18	15	Psalms 7, 27, 31, 34, 52	25	1 Chronicles 3-5
6	Judges 19-21	16	Psalms 56, 120, 140-142	26	Psalms 73, 77-78
7	Ruth 1-4	17	1 Samuel 25-27	27	1 Chronicles 6
8	1 Samuel 1-3	18	Psalms 17, 35, 54, 63	28	Psalms 81, 88, 92-93
9	1 Samuel 4-8	19	1 Samuel 28-31, Psalm 18	29	1 Chronicles 7-10
10	1 Samuel 9-12	20	Psalms 121, 123-125, 128-130	30	Psalms 102-104

Sunday School Lessons

Apr	<u>First Steps of Faith</u> <i>Infant to 2-year-olds</i>	<u>Early Elementary</u> <i>Preschool to 4th Grade</i>	<u>Upper Elementary</u> <i>5th & 6th Grade</i>	<u>Confirmation</u> <i>7th & 8th Grade</i>
5	<i>Easter Worship and Youth Breakfast</i>			
12	Easter	The Four Soils	Stephen	Confession of Faith Prep
19	Easter	Calming the Storm	<i>Confession of Faith Sunday</i>	
26	TBD	Jairus' Daughter	Philip and the Ethiopian	<i>Confirmation</i>

Senior High (9th to 12th Grade): The Chronology of Holy Week

Sunday Adult Bible Study – Fellowship Room (Pastor Bauman)

- April 5 – Easter breakfast
- April 12 – Hey Pastor, what about...
- April 19 – Confirmand Confession of Faith
- April 26 – Confirmand Confession of Faith/Congregational Forum
- May 3rd – Congregational Forum

Wednesday Adult Bible Studies

- 9:00 AM – Romans
- 6:00 PM – Isaiah resumes April 8

Moms in the Word - April 6 at 10:00 AM

Summer Sunday School

It is important for God's people to always have opportunities to grow in their faith through the study of God's Word. At St. Paul, we are blessed to continue hosting Sunday morning Bible study throughout the summer months. During the summer, Sunday school classes are generally combined into 2 groups: Elementary (PK-5th Grade) and Jr/Sr High (6th-12th Grade). We are looking for individuals who would be willing to serve as teachers for either of these groups during the summer. A sign-up sheet is located in the Gathering Space for volunteers to sign up for one or more teaching sessions. Lessons will be provided to those who sign up. Please consider volunteering for one of the following topics:

Elementary	Date	Jr/Sr High
The Case of the Broken Debris	May 24	Chronology of Holy Week
The Case of the Floating Basket	May 31	Chronology of Holy Week
The Case of the Scarlet Cord	June 7	Misconceptions about God and the Bible
The Case of the Little Coat	June 14	Misconceptions about Sin and Grace
The Case of the Torn Robe	June 21	Misconceptions about Jesus
The Case of the Missing Scroll	June 28	Misconceptions about the Church
The Case of the Old Bed	July 5	Misconceptions about Prayer and Faith
VBS Skit Preparation	July 12	VBS Skit Preparation
The Case of the Oil and Bandages	July 19	Misconceptions about Life and Death
The Case of the Worn Broom	July 26	Misconceptions about Love and Morality
The Case of the Dried Palms	Aug 2	Misconceptions about End Times

Small Group Opportunity

The Board of Education is looking for individuals who would be interested in hosting a small group. Small groups are great ways for people to strengthen their relationship with Christ through Bible study and build relationships with others in a smaller setting. Small group leaders will be supported with topical resources, church staff guidance, and much more. Please contact Crista Burbrink, Chad Fohne, Sarah Lewis, or Jen Probst for more information.

Vacation Bible School

Come and join us for a week of building a strong faith on the foundation of Jesus Christ. This summer's Vacation Bible School (VBS) theme will center around construction. It will be held July 13 to July 17, from 9:00 to 11:30 AM. Registration for VBS is now open on the church website. As we frame out the various components of this annual program, we are looking for individuals to help support youth learning about their Savior, Jesus Christ. Here are some of the roles needed to make our VBS a success:

Group Guides

These volunteers help children get to the various station activities during VBS. Group guides have the opportunity to get to know our students. Help support the learning that happens with the other station leaders. These servants help to keep our children safe and engaged in activities.

Game Leaders

Games are great ways to move and learn how to work together as a team. We need leaders who will help guide children through fun, large motor activities.

Snack Helpers

These helpers are needed to organize and distribute snacks. These volunteers also help to ensure that any children with dietary needs have the resources they need.

If you have any questions, please reach out to director@stpaulcolumbus.org for more information.

Youth Ministry

Gifts of Time and Talent:

Acolytes			Music	
8:00 AM	10:45 AM		8:00 AM	10:45 AM
Maundy Thursday at 6:45 PM – Zaylie Gonsior			2	
Good Friday at 6:45 PM – Sarah Arnholt			3	
Easter: 7 AM	9 AM	10:45 AM	5	
Addy Arnholt	Julia Burbrink	Faith Wofford	Sr. Handbells and Sr. Choir	
Kinze Fischer		Corbin Howarth	12	
Danial Helt		William Laws	19	
Faith Fohne		Leo Patterson	26	
			Sr. Handbells	
			Sr. Choir	
			Small Group/Soloist	
			Sr. Handbells	
			Sr. Choir	

Connecting to Others:

KfC <i>Kids for Christ youth group for preschool to 5th Grade</i>	Sunday, April 19 beginning at Noon All families with children 5 th Grade and younger are invited to join us for intentionally designed fellowship and activity times once a month. Come and join us for worship, then stay for lunch and fun. Families are encouraged to stay, friends are always invited to attend, and the cost of this event is free.
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C4Life <i>Christ for Life youth group for 6th to 8th Grade</i>	SPY <i>St. Paul Youth group for High School students</i>
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Friday, April 3 – **Good Friday Activities**

Many of us are blessed with time off from school so that we can focus on the significance of this church holiday. Youth are invited to join us for a family-oriented Good Friday worship service at 10:00 AM. Following the service, youth can help with a hands-on Together as Family activity or help set up for the Easter breakfast. Once these activities are done, we will enjoy lunch and a time to play with our new 9 Square in the Air, Gaga pit, and other games.

Sunday, April 5 – **Easter Worship & Breakfast**

Every day is a celebration of the life that we have in Christ. At Easter, we reserve this day to recall Jesus conquering sin, death, and the devil through His saving work and resurrection. We have several options on worship times Easter Sunday. In between worship services, youth are invited to help with a special Easter breakfast. Youth will be needed to serve breakfast casseroles, pour drinks, refresh fruit/pastries, and help clean. Donations given to this event help offset the cost of youth activities.

- Attend 7:00 AM Worship – serve breakfast after worship till 9:45 AM
- Attend 9:00 AM Worship – serve breakfast from 7:30-9:00 AM
- Attend 10:45 AM Worship – serve from 9:00-10:45 AM

Sunday, April 26th Take ground beef home to brown and return by Sunday, May 3rd.

Sunday, May 3rd Pizza and sauce making day.

Thursday, June 4 to Sunday, June 7 - **Summer Servant Event**

Mark your calendars for an opportunity to help Faith Lutheran Church in Madison, Indiana and have some fun while serving. Confirmands through High School students are needed to renovate a church parsonage (house provided for a pastor, by the church) and host a 1-day community VBS. Our days will be filled with service and our evenings will be spent in group building. We will conclude our time in worship with our host congregation and then participate in a special event before returning home. Please notify Jen Probst by May 1st of your interest in the event so that she can secure housing, organize service projects, and plan for meals.

Please see DCE Jen Probst for additional details or registration information.

~Friends are always welcome. Parents are invited to help out.~



St. Paul Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Ministry

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Services and Special Events

Grace Upon Grace is the theme for all our services through Easter Sunday as we learn and rejoice together in God's amazing and abundant grace freely given through Christ Jesus. All these services and special events are opportunities to invite others to God's house. *Please consider who you can invite to join you!*

Wednesdays in Lent—March 11th, 18th, and 25th: Supper is served from 5:30-6:15 PM; Hymn Sing from 6:30-6:45 PM; Lenten Service begins at 6:45 PM.

Lenten Suppers are served before the Wednesday Lenten services. A freewill offering will be received.

March 11th: Pulled pork, sides, and desserts served by the Bower, Forbes, and Walton Families

March 18th: Soups, chicken salad sandwiches, veggies, and desserts served by the Board of Evangelism and Spouses

March 25th: Taco Bar and desserts served by the LWML

Thanks to all who are providing these meals!

Palm Sunday Procession of Palms Children are invited to process with palms at either service on **Palm Sunday, March 29th**. Children should arrive in the gathering space ten minutes before the service.

Easter Egg Hunt is on **Palm Sunday, March 29th** following the 10:45 AM service (approximately noon). All children fifth grade and younger are invited to attend. This is our March Kfc event. No lunch will be served. **Candy donations:** We are accepting individually wrapped candy donations now through **Sunday, March 22nd**. Please place your donations in the gathering space.

Maunder Thursday is April 2nd: 6:45 PM Communion Service concluding with the Stripping of the Altar.

Good Friday is April 3rd: 10 AM Morning Service (Early Childhood Ministry and Sunday School children preschool-second grade sing); 10:45 AM Together as Family Activities reinforcing the theme of the day; 6:45 PM Service of Darkness with Holy Communion.

Easter Sunday is April 5th: 7, 9, and 10:45 AM Festival Communion Services; 7:30-9:45 AM Easter Breakfast served by Youth Families; **Alleluia Banner Procession** Children are invited to process with Alleluia Banners at all three Easter services. Children should arrive in the gathering space ten minutes before the service. **Easter Breakfast Food Donations:** The sign-up sheet for donations for the Easter Breakfast is posted in the gathering space. Please support our youth ministry by donating a breakfast casserole or other food items for the breakfast.

GRACE
upon grace

Extending Christ's Love Update

"Let us rise up and build" (Nehemiah 2:18). These are the words of Nehemiah as he led the project to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem in 445 BC. *Let us rise up and build* is our motto going forward. Sitework continues, and foundation work is about to begin. *Let us rise up and build!*

Congregational Forums: Please plan to attend the Congregational Forums on **Sundays, April 26th and May 3rd** during the Sunday School hour. Included will be updates from the Building and Finance Committees as we celebrate God's many blessings through this endeavor and look ahead to the next steps in Extending Christ's Love.

Playground Project Goal Reached!!! Thanks be to God that through your generosity and many others, we have reached our \$120,000 goal for our playground project! We express our thanks to the anonymous donor who offered the matching funds for us to reach this goal.

2026 Rummage Sale(s): We had an overwhelming response to our Rummage Sale last June raising more than \$6,500. Unfortunately, this summer we will not be able to host a Rummage Sale like last year's. This is because the Sunday School area in the existing church will be reconfigured into the office area during the summer, limiting where we could store donations for the sale. So, we are pivoting this summer hoping that church members will organize their own Rummage Sales to benefit Extending Christ's Love. These Rummage Sales can be hosted at your house or at the Chapel:

Hosting a Rummage Sale at your house: Please share the day(s) and times of your Rummage Sale so that we can promote it in church bulletins, newsletters, and social media.

Hosting a Rummage Sale at the Chapel: Please call the church office to reserve the Chapel for your Rummage Sale. When reserving, include both the day(s) of the sale and the days leading up to the sale for setting up. Tables will be provided in the Chapel for displaying items as well as signage that can be placed in front of the chapel during the sale. Please consider joining with other church and/or early childhood ministry families and hosting a sale together.

For questions or more information, please contact Phil Burbrink at 812-344-9946 or Rachel Fohne at 812-343-3786.

It is an exciting season in our life together as God's family in this place. We thank you for your generosity. Pray that as God's people we would faithfully extend Christ's love in word and deed!



News and Notes

March Church Office Hours

On **Friday, March 13th**, the church office will be closed as church and school staff will be assisting with Grandparents Day at the church.

During the week of Spring Break, Mackenzie will be in the office the morning of **Tuesday, March 17th**. Please submit all bulletin announcements for Sunday, March 22nd by 8 AM Tuesday morning.

If you need pastoral care during Spring Break, please contact a pastor directly.

Join us in Brown County

You and your family are welcome to join many of our Latino families for a spring break outing to Brown County State Park on **Wednesday, March 18th**. We'll gather at church for Matins at 10:15 AM followed by a lesson and craft on Holy Week. Granted the weather is agreeable, we'll then make our way to the park for lunch and outdoor fun. We'll finish back at church for another Holy Week lesson, supper, and Lenten service. Don't be shy! Please let Pastor Fickenscher know if you'd like in on the fun. All ages welcome!

Moms in the Word

All mothers and their children are invited to attend our monthly Moms in the Word gathering on **Monday, April 6th** at 10 AM in the fellowship room. Join us for a devotion and fellowship!

Orphan Grain Train News

St. Paul serves the OGT by sorting donated items for distribution the first Tuesday of each month. If you are interested in volunteering, come and join us on **Tuesday, April 7th** from 9 AM-noon. If you cannot attend, the need for volunteers is ongoing so volunteer anytime during their regular hours Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 AM-3 PM.

Donations can be dropped off at any time at the trailer located on the east side of the warehouse.

Confession of Faith and Confirmation

We rejoice as our eighth grade confirmands Adelyn Arnholt, Julia Burbrink, Zaylie Gonsior, Danial Helt, William Laws, and Kylie Price will offer their Confession of Faith on **Sunday, April 19th** and be confirmed and receive their first Communion at the 10:45 AM service on **Sunday, April 26th**.

On **Sunday, April 19th**, a reception will be held in honor of our confirmands during the fellowship hour. They will answer questions covering the major teachings of Scriptures during the Sunday School hour.

On **Confirmation Sunday, April 26th**, the confirmands will offer their Confession of Faith presentations on topics they have chosen during Sunday School, before the 10:45 AM Confirmation and First Communion Service.

Please pray for our confirmands, that they will remain faithful to the Lord their entire lives.

Congregational Forums

Please plan to attend the Congregational Forums on **Sundays, April 26th and May 3rd** during the Sunday School hour. The Forum will begin on April 26th after our confirmands offer the Confession of Faith presentations and continue May 3rd. Updates will be given regarding Extending Christ's Love from our building and finance committees, as well as reports regarding our Latino outreach, early childhood ministry, Christian education, and youth. Information will also be shared regarding the pastoral vacancy at Faith, Madison that our pastors will begin serving on May 1st as well as information about the LCMS synodical convention this summer. Please join with your church family to learn the exciting mission and ministry that is happening here at St. Paul and to ask questions.

ECM CARNIVAL

The Early Childhood Ministry board is hosting the CARNIVAL on **Saturday, May 2nd** from 2-4 PM. This year's CARNIVAL will have a Hawaiian theme. The ECM board is seeking volunteers to host a booth at the event. Booths may include a fun activity or game; prizes will be provided. Please contact Andrea Cotton to sign up for a booth at 812-344-4580 or amorris1525@gmail.com.

Thrivent Choice Dollars and Action Teams

Thrivent members—Please maximize your membership privileges of owning a Thrivent policy in the following ways:

Thrivent Choice Dollars: Most Thrivent members are given Choice Dollars to designate to their church or some other nonprofit organization. Choice Dollars expire on **March 31, 2026**. If you are a Thrivent member, please do one of the following:

Online: Go to thrivent.com and designate your Choice Dollars to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Columbus, Indiana.

Phone: Call 1-800-847-4836 during regular business hours. When prompted by the automated service, say "Thrivent Choice". Provide your phone number and date of birth to verify your account. You will then be connected to a customer service representative who will assist you in directing your Choice Dollars to our congregation.

Action Team Grants: Every Thrivent policy holder is eligible to apply for and receive two \$250 Action Team Grants every year. These grants provide the seed money for educational, service, and fundraising events. For ideas for Thrivent Action Team Grants and/or for assistance in completing the application, please contact Rachel Fohne or Pastor Bauman.

Just Friends Donations

Just Friends adult day services is seeking items for their annual donation drive. Your generosity helps provide a welcoming day center where people can connect, engage, and be truly valued. The most needed items are paper towels, napkins, peanut butter & jelly, and Folgers coffee. A longer list of items is on the poster of the donation box which will be located in the gathering space until **Sunday, March 29th**.

VBS Registration and Craft Donations

Mark your calendars! Vacation Bible School is **Monday-Friday, July 13th-17th** from 9-11:30 AM with the theme *Built on the Rock*. Child and volunteer registration is now open! Go to the church website (stpaulcolumbus.org) and click on the VBS 2026 tab.

A craft being planned for Vacation Bible School is to make a replica of Solomon's Temple using shoe boxes. We are collecting ALL sizes of shoe boxes. You may place them in the box in the Gathering Space indicating Shoe Box Donations. Thank you!

Early Childhood Ministry Registration

Registration now for the 2026-2027 school year for our early childhood ministry! *Please help us promote our Christ-centered, fully accredited school!* All registration is online so encourage families to visit the church website (stpaulcolumbus.org) to learn more and to register. Families are also invited to tour our school. Financial aid is available to all families so that no student is turned away. The Little Doves (four year olds) class is full and a waiting list has been started. Two openings remain in kindergarten, and 15 openings remain in the Little Lambs (three year olds) class. Please contact Director Jen Probst (812-376-6504; director@stpaulcolumbus.org) to schedule a tour or for more information.

Sunday Lunches

We offer lunches for those participating in afternoon events. The sign-up sheet for January-May is posted in the gathering space.

March 15th: No Lunch Served—Spring Break

March 22nd: Latino Families Hosting

March 29th: Spaghetti and Meatballs

April 5th: No Lunch Served—Easter

April 12th: Sandwich Bar

April 19th: Chicken Nuggets—KfC Day

April 26th: No Lunch Served—Confirmation Sunday

Mission of the Month

Our April Mission of the Month is Concordia Counseling. The counseling center located at Redeemer in Seymour exists to provide compassionate mental and spiritual health care that is both Biblically sound and clinically effective. Our support for Concordia Counseling enables clients who are unable to pay to receive Christ-centered counseling services so that no one is turned away due to finances.

St. Paul Lutheran SGO

Donate to our Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization at St. Paul!

A donation to our St. Paul SGO directly benefits our Early Childhood Ministry by helping us fund our mission and ministry! Why donate to our Lutheran SGO?? Donors receive a 50% state income tax credit! Please consult your tax advisor for specific tax advice. Please contact Rachel Fohne for more information at rachel.fohne@stpaulcolumbus.org or 812-343-3786. You can also visit www.lutheransgo.org for more information!

2025-2026 St. Paul SGO Fundraising Goal: \$135,000
Amount Raised as of February 28, 2026: \$ 92,753

Extending Christ's Love Pledges

Do you need a reminder about what you pledged for Extending Christ's Love or do you need an update on how much you have already donated? Please reach out to Rachel Fohne at rachel.fohne@stpaulcolumbus.org or 812-343-3786 to get your questions answered. Fulfilling your Extending Christ's Love pledge is an essential part of our overall financial plan for the project. Thank you for your continued generosity and support!

Financial Updates!

The Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) rules allow IRA owners to make direct transfer from their IRA to a qualified charity without including the distribution in taxable income. Eligible individuals may contribute up to \$111,000 in 2026 directly from their IRA to a charitable organization such as St. Paul Lutheran Church. These transfers can also be applied toward satisfying their Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for the year. The QCD limit for 2026 is \$111,000. Please consult with your tax advisor for your specific situation. A QCD can be an excellent way to give to the St. Paul General Fund or Extending Christ's Love. Reach out to Finance Specialist Rachel Fohne at rachel.fohne@stpaulcolumbus.org or 812-343-3786 for more information.

Online Giving

Please consider using our secure, online donation platform to give to St. Paul. Simply scan the QR code to give through our website. Also, you have the option to set up a recurring donation that you can adjust or cancel at any time. This is an excellent way to fulfill General Fund or Extending Christ's Love pledges. Please reach out to Rachel Fohne at rachel.fohne@stpaulcolumbus.org or 812-343-3786 with specific questions.



Official Acts

Josephine Catherine Natalie, daughter of Joshua and Rebekah Natalie, was baptized on February 22nd.

Brian Bostwick and Ashley Neawedde were united in marriage on February 14th.

Mark Your Calendars

Sundays, April 26th and May 3rd Congregational Forums during the Sunday School hour

Saturday, May 2nd ECM CARnival from 2-4 PM

Sunday, May 17th Celebration of Ascension Service of Song; Recognition of Graduates; Sunday School Teacher Appreciation; Trinity Lutheran High School Presentation during Sunday School

Sunday, May 24th Summer Sunday School begins

Friday, June 19th-Saturday, June 27th Bartholomew County Fair—Walking Taco Barn

Monday-Friday, July 13th-17th 9-11:30 AM Vacation Bible School

LWML News

On Tuesday, March 17th the LWML will host **Birthday Bingo at the Lutheran Community Home** in Seymour. We are providing bingo prizes, cupcakes, and angel food cakes for the event. Please contact Elaine Wilson at 317-771-2121 to carpool from the church to lunch at a Seymour restaurant before bingo at 2 PM. Reach out to Wendy Wiederhoeft at 812-371-4271, or Elaine, with questions. Anyone is welcome to attend.

The LWML is hosting the **Lenten Meal** on Wednesday, March 25th. A sign-up sheet for the necessary food, desserts, and drinks for our Taco/Nacho Bar is up on the bulletin board. We also need volunteers to set up, serve, and clean up that evening. Please contact Elaine Wilson for more information at 317-771-2121, or to help.



We are also hosting a **Basket Silent Auction** in conjunction with our Lenten meal and in support of Extending Christ's Love. So far, we only have four baskets donated or spoken for. We would like to have at least a dozen baskets for people to bid on between March 18th and March 25th. Remember, we are looking for baskets, *not individual items*. Please contact Sariina Kalli at 218-451-1026 for more info or to donate a basket.

You are invited to the **Columbus Zone Spring Gathering** on Saturday, April 11th at St. John's Lutheran Church, White Creek. Registration and breakfast will begin at 9 AM, with a program to follow and a luncheon to close the gathering.

Save the Date: The next **Family Game Night and Euchre Tourney** is set for Friday, May 8th, at 6 PM in the fellowship room. We had record numbers of players and gamers in February, and we invite you all to bring a friend and join us again in May.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN for the **Indiana District Convention** June 26-28, 2026, at the Vanderburgh 4H Center in Evansville, Indiana. The theme is "Be Still and Know" based on Psalm 46:10. Registration forms are on the LWML bulletin board in the gathering space, and there is a TON of info about the convention, including hotel options, servant events, luncheon and interest session speakers, and more, in the most recent *Good News* at <https://lwmlindiana.org>.

Serving at St. Paul

Service	Usher Team	Elders	Greeters
8 AM	Team D	Adam Hall & Carl Shaffer	
10:45 AM	Team F	Wiley Umphress & Steve Voelz	

Day	Acolyte	Flowers	Radio	Fellowship Hour	Lunch
2 Maundy Thursday	6:45 PM Zaylie Gonsior	-----	-----	-----	-----
3 Good Friday	10 AM -----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	6:45 PM Sarah Amholt				
5 Easter Sunday	7 AM Addy Amholt	Lilies		Easter Breakfast	No Lunch
	9 AM Julia Burbrink				
	10:45 AM Faith Wofford				
12	8 AM Kinze Fischer	Mike and Wilma Yeley	Mike and Wilma Yeley		Fischer Family
	10:45 AM Corbin Howarth				
19	8 AM Danial Heit		Eric and Linda Scheidt	Confirmation Families	
	10:45 AM William Laws				
26	8 AM Faith Fohne		Linda J. Scheidt		No Lunch
	10:45 AM Leo Patterson				



Kindergarten

St. Paul Early Childhood ministry

- Comprehensive half-day
- Monday-Friday 8:15am-12:15pm
- Complimentary flexible pickup until 2:30pm
- Option to stay 2:30- 4:30pm for an additional \$10
- Optional STREAM class included in tuition -Wednesdays until 3:10pm

NO COST TUITION for all
our kindergarten students

- Maximum 17 students to 2 teachers
- Follows Indiana Academic Standards
- Fully Accredited Program
- STREAM Enrichment Opportunity
- Daily Jesus Time
- Weekly Music classes
- New education center building in progress





Preschool

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN
EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY

LAMBS CLASS (3-year-old)

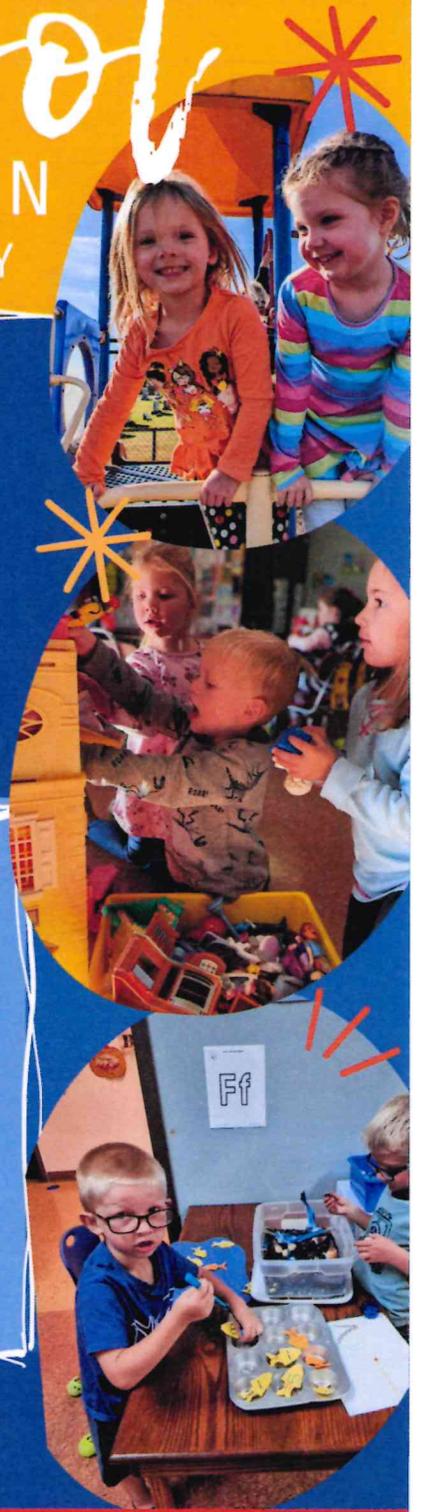
- Meets Tuesdays and Thursdays
- 8:15 am – 11:15 am
- Must be potty trained
- Ratio: 2 Teacher/16 Students
- Monthly Tuition: \$150



DOVES CLASS (4-year-old)

- Meets Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays
- 8:15 am – 11:15 am
- Must be potty trained
- Ratio: 2 Teacher/18 Students
- Monthly Tuition: \$190

- Follows Indiana Academic Standards
- Before/After school care
- STEM Enrichment Opportunity
- Daily Jesus Time
- Weekly Music classes
- Minds in Motion



(812) 376-6504



6045 E State Street
Columbus, IN 47201



www.StPaulColumbus.org



Director@StPaulColumbus.org



