



God exalted [Jesus] at His right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit.

Acts 5:31-32a

The Joy of Easter Witness

Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026



St. Paul Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod
Columbus, Indiana

Welcome to St. Paul!

We are glad that you have come to God's house to be fed and strengthened by His holy Word. The order of service for today is printed on the **insert** in this bulletin. Guests, we extend a special welcome to you this morning. We are privileged to have you as our guest today and encourage you to worship with us again soon.

The Family Quiet Room and Restroom are located outside the doors of the sanctuary and to the left. In the Family Quiet Room, you can hear and see the service. **Assisted hearing devices** are available for the service. Please contact an usher.

Do you need prayer support? Please call Bonnie England at **812-447-7895** to activate our **Prayer Chain**. Your fellow church members will pray for you.

Our Communion Practice: We invite and encourage those who have been instructed, confirmed, and confess the faith of this congregation and other congregations of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to receive the Sacrament. Communicants at this altar acknowledge their sins, believe that the body and blood of Christ are truly present in the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, and desire the Spirit's help to turn from their sins.

Those who are not communing are invited to come forward and receive a blessing by placing their arms across their chest.

If you have questions regarding our Communion teaching and practice, please speak to a pastor.

Communion Preparation: To prepare for the Lord's Supper, you may wish to pray the prayer on the inside cover of the hymnal or review the Christian Questions and Answers on pages 329-330.

Today's Christian Education Opportunities

First Steps of Faith (Infants and Toddlers with a parent)
Sunday School classes for ages three-sixth grade
Confirmation Instruction (grades 7-8) led by Pastor Patterson
Sr. High Youth in the Youth Room led by DCE Probst
Hey Pastor, what about...? Adult Bible Study meets in the fellowship room

Serving Today

Organist: Kantor Dan Mau
Acolytes: 8 AM Service Kinze Fischer
10:45 AM Service Corbin Howarth

Church Calendar

Today	8:00 AM Divine Service 9:00 AM Radio Service WYGS 91.1 FM 9:10 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Divine Service—English and Spanish Noon Lunch 12:15 PM Spanish Bible Study 12:15-2:00 PM 8 th Grade Confirmation 7:00 PM Lutheran Hour WYGS 91.1 FM
Monday	May Newsletter Deadline 9:30 AM Homeschool Religion Class 10:00 AM Small Group Handbells
Wednesday	9:00 AM Bible Study 10:15 AM Matins Service 6:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM Sr. Handbells 7:00 PM Sr. Choir
Next Sunday	8:00 AM Divine Service 9:00 AM Radio Service WYGS 91.1 FM 9:10 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM Confirmands Confession of Faith 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Divine Service—English and Spanish Noon Fundraising Fiesta Lunch Noon-1:15 PM KfC Event 12:15 PM Spanish Bible Study 12:15 PM 8 th Grade Confirmation 7:00 PM Lutheran Hour WYGS 91.1 FM

IN THE GATHERING SPACE...

- + April newsletter, also available online
- + April-June *Portals of Prayer*
- + *Lutheran Women's Quarterly*

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS AND RADIO MINISTRY... are given by Mike and Wilma Yeley in thanksgiving for 57 years of marriage, and for family.

ECM REGISTRATION... *Help us promote our 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. Please contact Director Jen Probst (812-376-6504; director@stpaulcolumbus.org) for more information.

Second Sunday of Easter

Prelude

I Know That My Redeemer Lives—settings by W. Held and M. Burkhardt (Hymn 461)

Welcome and Announcements

Please sign the Record of Fellowship

Ring of the Bell

Opening Hymn

457 *standing for stanza 4*

Confession of Sins

page 151

Kyrie

pages 152-153

Hymn of Praise

This Is the Feast

page 155

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

G *(sung)* **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that we, who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection, may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G *(spoken)* **Amen.**

please be seated

First Reading

Acts 5:27-42

And when [the soldiers] had brought [the apostles], they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging Him on a tree. God exalted Him at His right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him."

When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice, and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9

[Peter writes:] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and

honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse

please stand and sing

G **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

John 20:19-31

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter.

G **(sung) Glory to You, O Lord.**

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told Him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into His side, I will never believe."

Eight days later, His disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G **(sung) Praise to You, O Christ.**

Little Sermon

Hymn of the Day

564 stanzas 1-5

Sermon

The Joy of Easter Witness

Acts 5:27-42

Nicene Creed

please stand page 158

Prayer of the Church

Offering

484 *standing for stanza six*

Service of the Sacrament

please stand pages 160-163

Distribution

466, 470, 464, 480 *standing for stanza five*

Visitors: Please read the Communion statement on the inside front cover of the bulletin.

Post-Communion Canticle

Thank the Lord

please stand page 164

Closing Liturgy

page 166

Closing Hymn

564 stanzas 6

Postlude

Heut triumphieret Gottes Sohn, BWV 630—J. S. Bach

Please take your Easter lily home after either service today if you have not already done so.

The Joy of Easter Witness — Acts 5:27-42

The "Joy of Easter Witness" is the bold, S_____ -given joy that turns ordinary everyday believers into brave, unstoppable witnesses.

Why were the Jewish religious leaders so opposed to the Apostles? A 40-year-old man who had been b_____ lame (not able to walk) had been healed "in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth." (Acts 3:1-10)

The apostles were beaten and then told that they must not continue to preach about Jesus and His resurrection.

Their response was: "We must obey G_____ rather than men."

The Bible says that the Apostles "left the presence of the council, r_____ that they were counted worthy to suffer for the name" (of Jesus Christ crucified and raised).

Next Sunday's Readings Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Peter 1:17-25; Luke 24:13-35

LIVING THE SERMON... Easter gives us a profound joy over the certainty that Christ has risen from the dead, that the penalty of our sins is paid in full, and that Christ is coming again to lead us to an eternal existence in perfect joy in His presence forever. Therefore, we live in joy, even amid the trials and suffering of this life. Live joyfully and boldly in faith and witness, in the power of the Spirit who lives in you!

LIVING THE SERMON... That the spirits of the weary would be refreshed this Easter season with the joy and power of the Resurrection of Jesus! That God would break the resistance of those who deny Christ and His resurrection and lead them into the joy of salvation.

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK... [Jesus said:] "Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. Luke 24:26-27

Extending Christ's Love

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Easter joy is ours because the tomb is empty. We live in that joy, and we witness to that joy in Christ, the resurrection and the life.

Through our Christian Education Center, we will have the opportunity to witness to young and old about the risen Christ. Easter joy will resound in our Spanish worship services, early childhood ministry, and children, youth, and adult classes.

Congregational Forum: Please plan to attend the Congregation Forum on **Sundays, April 26th and May 3rd** during the Sunday School hour to receive updates from our Building and Finance Committees and to ask any questions you may have.

Rummage Sales: We will host two Rummage Sales this summer in the chapel. The first will be **Friday-Saturday, June 12-13**. For this sale, we are seeking donations for furniture, household items, and adult clothes. The second is **Friday-Saturday, July 17-18** and will focus on children's clothes, toys, and furniture. In addition, you are encouraged to host a Rummage Sale at your house with proceeds benefiting Extending Christ's Love. For more information, please contact Phil Burbrink at 812-344-9946 or Rachel Fohne at 812-343-3786.

Thanks for your generous support of Extending Christ's Love. Please continue to pray for this endeavor and for those who will be blessed through the ministry that will occur in the Christian Education Center.



Youth Events

KfC (Kids for Christ—fifth graders and younger)

Next Sunday, April 19th Lunch and Activities

Children and their friends and parents are invited to join us for lunch at noon and for faith-building activities that conclude at 1:15 PM.

SPY (high schoolers) and C4Life (sixth-eighth grade)

Sundays, April 19th and 26th Confession of Faith Sundays

Youth should plan to attend Confession of Faith during the Sunday School hour to support and encourage our 8th grade confirmands.

Sunday, May 3rd Sauce Making Day

Join us for lunch and making our famous sauce for the taco barn at the county fair. After making the sauce, we'll enjoy games and activities together. Pick-up time is 2 PM. Ground beef will be available Sunday, April 26th to take home and brown to be returned on or before May 3rd.

Friends are always welcome! For more information, contact DCE Jen Probst or a youth counselor.



Stewarding HIS Gifts

There are multiple ways to give to St. Paul. You can always donate online through the website or use the QR code on the back page of this bulletin. **You can make a one-time donation or schedule weekly or monthly donations that you can adjust or cancel at any time.** If you have a question about donating to St. Paul or any information below, please reach out to Rachel Fohne at 812-343-3786 or rachel.fohne@stpaulcolumbus.org.

More Ways to Give

Did you know? You can donate appreciated securities directly to St. Paul to fulfill your General Fund or Extending Christ's Love pledges. Donating appreciated securities such as stocks, bonds, and mutual funds may offer a tax advantage to the donor. Generally, the tax-deductible value of a gift of securities is the current market value as of the date of the gift. Appreciation (capital gains) of this donated security is generally not taxable to the donor. As always, please consult with your tax advisor about your specific situation.

Financial Updates

The Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) allows IRA owners to make a 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. Please consult with your tax advisor. A QCD from an IRA can be an excellent way to give to St. Paul.

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? 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!

St Paul SGO Donations Exceed \$100,000

Thanks to your generosity, more than \$100,000 has been contributed to our early childhood ministry through the St. Paul Lutheran **S**cholarship **G**ranting **O**rganization. These gifts fund our mission and ministry as well as provide scholarships for families with financial need. If you haven't yet contributed to the St. Paul Lutheran SGO, please consider doing so. Donors receive a 50% state income tax **CREDIT!** You can donate stocks, bonds, and mutual funds to the SGO and receive a 50% tax credit! Please consult your tax advisor for specific tax advice. You can visit www.lutheransgo.org for more information!

2025-2026 St. Paul SGO Fundraising Goal: \$135,000 Amount Raised as of March 31, 2026: \$100,953

IN OUR PRAYERS... Pam Roth, Henry Wischmeier, Bonnie Darlage, Marie Tellman, Phyllis Fox, Julia Bense, Doug Essex, Doug Brown, Riley Walton, Katrina Smith, Sheila Shaffer, Gloria Schultz, Joan Wilcox, Gerald Helt, Jill Scheidt, Bob and Marilyn Runge, Marie Miller (Sandy Johnson's aunt), Dakota Faith (Jayne Dornquist's relative), Evelyn Sapper (Nora Cleary's sister), Dawn Seifer (Ethan's mother), Lisa McGaha (Don and Debbie Schroer's friend), Katy Garza (Clearys' niece), Al and Pat Abrams (Pam Roth's brother and sister-in-law), Evan Dunn (Oliver's friend), Michelle Matthews (Ray and Pat Hall's niece), Steve Kennedy (Ray and Pat Hall's friend), Amy Coombs (Darlene Bower's friend), Sam Straub (Kathy Adams' nephew), Lynn Ramberg, Ty Ramberg, Deb Larsen, and Ozzy Hentges (Kallis' friends), Connie Ball, Lisa Williams (Ann Linke's niece/Jordan Patterson's aunt), Pastor Craig Wulf and Jesse Lopez (John and Gail Jones' friends), Lori Lucas (Katrina Smith's friend), Mary Putz (Anne Wiltsey's mother), Curt Carothers, Marcia Carson and Linda Hall (Gayla Alesandro's friends), Jami Maher (Joanne Kirby's niece), Bob McDonald (Wendy Wiederhoeft's father), Ed Vogel (Eddie Vogel's father), William Leitshuh (Clearys' friend), Marilyn Gifford (Hinds' friend); **Active Military:** Garrett McGaha, Bryce Cleary (Judy Sullivan's friend), Shane McGowen (Sally Haak's nephew), Peyton Mullins (Sperrys' friend), Ty Chamberlain (Taffy Schroer's relative), Devin Klein (Adam and Kristy Hall's nephew)

MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE... is **tomorrow, April 13th**.

CONFESSION OF FAITH AND CONFIRMATION SUNDAY... Our confirmands will offer their Confession of Faith during the Sunday School hour on **Sundays, April 19th and 26th**.

Next Sunday, April 19th, the fellowship hour will honor our confirmands. During Sunday School, they will answer questions drawn from the Scriptures.

On Sunday, April 26th, they will offer their Confession of Faith presentations during the Sunday School hour. During the 10:45 AM service, they will be confirmed and receive their first Communion.

FUNDRAISING FIESTA FOR MEMBERS IN NEED... **Next Sunday, April 19th**, lunch will be served after the 10:45 AM service to support Noel and Mercedes and their family, one of our Latino families. Traditional Nicaraguan cuisine will be served along with hotdogs

and other familiar fare. A freewill offering will be collected. Please contact Pastor Fickenscher if you have any questions or if you would like to contribute even if you can't attend the meal. Checks can be made out to St. Paul with Noel Lopez in the memo line.

CONGREGATIONAL FORUMS... God is at work here at St. Paul, and we want *everyone* to be informed of all the great things going on. Please join us for Congregational Forums on **Sundays, April 26th and May 3rd** during the Sunday School hour. The Forum will begin on April 26th after the Confession of Faith presentations and continue the entire Sunday School hour on May 3rd. Come and receive updates regarding our Latino outreach, early childhood ministry, youth ministry, Christian education, and music ministry. The Building and Finance Committees will offer reports as well as a discussion regarding the pastoral vacancy in Faith, Madison that begins May 1st and the synodical convention this summer. Plan to attend to learn and ask questions.

ECM CARNIVAL... The Early Childhood Ministry Board is hosting the CARNival on **Saturday, May 2nd** from 2-4 PM with 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.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE...

VBS Craft Donations and Helpers: Shoeboxes and empty toilet paper rolls are needed for VBS crafts. Donations can be placed in the box in the gathering space. If you are interested in helping with crafts, please contact Vicki Howarth, 812-343-6967 via text or call; or email at dvhowarth@comcast.net.

Small Group Bible Study Leaders: If you are interested in hosting a small group, please contact Crista Burbrink, Chad Fohne, Sarah Lewis, or Jen Probst. Small group leaders will be supported with topical resources, church staff guidance, and much more.

Summer Sunday School: Volunteers are needed to teach during Summer Sunday School May 24th-August 2nd. There are two classes—children's class (preschool-fifth grade) and youth class (sixth-twelfth grade). Materials will be provided. Please sign up in the gathering space. If you have any questions, please contact DCE Probst.

TRINITY TEACHERS RETIREMENT CELEBRATION...

Mrs. Jackie Stuckwisch and Mr. Bryan Schroer are retiring after years of dedicated and faithful service to Trinity Lutheran High School! As we celebrate the lasting impact they have made on our students and school community, we invite you to help us honor them by sharing your well wishes through a card shower.

Students, families, faculty, alumni, and friends of Trinity are encouraged to send notes of gratitude, encouragement, and memories to Mrs. Stuckwisch and Mr. Schroer. Cards will be collected through the end of the school year and presented during the closing chapel service on Friday, May 22. You may mail them to the school or drop them off in the office.

Join us in giving thanks for their service and celebrating all they have meant to Trinity. Well done, good and faithful servants! Cards may be mailed to: Trinity Lutheran High School, c/o Mrs. Stuckwisch or Mr. Schroer, 1 Trinity Way, Seymour, Indiana 47274

TRINITY YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE... Registration is open for the upcoming season. TYFL offers flag football, tackle football, and cheerleading for children kindergarten through eighth grade. To register or for more information, visit: trinityyouthfootball.com. If you are interested in serving as the seventh-eighth grade

head football coach, please contact Brad Boas at tyfl@trinitycougars.org.

THANKS TO... all who donated food and attended the Easter breakfast. \$1,083 was raised to support our youth ministry.

NOTE OF THANKS... To God be the glory! We want to thank St. Paul Lutheran Church for the kind words, prayers, thoughts, and kindness shown to us in many different ways in the past.

-Henry and Lois Wischmeier

The Response of God's People

Maundy Thursday

Divine Service: **150**

Communion: **120**

Good Friday

Divine Service: **418**

Communion: **170**

Easter Sunday

Divine Service: **612**



Communion: **442**

Offering

General Fund: \$17,862.78

Weekly Need: \$17,721

Extending Christ's Love: \$3,597 including \$362 from LWML Silent Auction

Youth Fund: \$1,083 Easter Breakfast Proceeds

St. Paul Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Ministry

6045 East State Street, Columbus, Indiana 47201

812-376-6504; www.stpaulcolumbus.org

Pastor Doug Bauman; pastorbauman@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-350-4115

Pastor Jeff Patterson; pastorpatterson@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-569-2471

Pastor Daniel Fickenscher; pastorfickenscher@stpaulcolumbus.org; 260-710-6750

Kantor Daniel Mau; kantor@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-927-9319

DCE Jen Probst; director@stpaulcolumbus.org; 765-491-7818

Administrative Specialist Mackenzie Wint; mackenzie.wint@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-528-1176

Finance Specialist Rachel Fohne; rachel.fohne@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-343-3786

Latino Outreach Coordinator Renee Strietelmeier; riskplants@yahoo.com; 812-343-6466

Social Media Coordinator Andrea Cotton; socialmedia@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-344-4580

ECM Teachers: Anne Wiltsey (kindergarten); Michelle Schultz, Alyssa Schultz, Glory Wofford (preschool)

ECM Assistants: Gayla Alesandro, Sarah Lewis, Laurie Schultz,

Claudia Sims, Caroline Wilcox, Amy Yeley

Reaching out with Christ's Love to Serve and Grow