

St. Paul Epistle

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Paul Lutheran Church

May, 2025

Extending Christ's Love through Youth Ministry

Dear Friends in Christ,

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! It has been a joy to journey with you through the "wilderness" during the forty days of Lent. Now we embark on the great fifty days of the Easter season, culminating on Ascension Sunday, June 1st. Our Lord's resurrection is this most significant day in human history. *If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins* (1 Corinthians 15:17). But Christ has been raised from the dead. His resurrection is celebrated not on a single day, but for an entire fifty-day season. His resurrection is so significant that it's not only celebrated once a year, but once a week, every Sunday the day of resurrection, as we come into the presence of the risen Christ so that He can bless us with His life and salvation through His Word and the feast of Easter victory. I look forward to celebrating Easter with you in the coming weeks!



Lent and the upcoming Easter season have given our youth multiple opportunities to grow and learn and enjoy fun and fellowship. On March 7-8, 46 youth attended the lock-in. On April 6th, over 50 youth, young adults, and chaperones enjoyed an afternoon of fun and fellowship at Back Nine Golf. Joy abounded at our Palm Sunday KfC Easter Egg Hunt.

As I write this on Monday of Holy Week, we are looking forward to Good Friday when our youth will gather in God's house on this important day. KfC youth and their parents will participate in Together as Family following our morning service. Our older youth groups will remain into the afternoon to prepare for the Easter breakfast and to watch *Passion of the Christ*. Our youth families will serve Easter breakfast. The Sunday after Easter, April 27th, we will have the opportunity to celebrate with our eleven confirmands and their families as they offer their Confession of Faith presentations during Sunday School, and are confirmed and receive their first Communion. On May 18th, we will recognize our high school and college graduates and pray for God's blessings on the next chapter in their lives.

In the fall of 2021, we expanded our youth ministry to include KfC (Kids for Christ), a youth group for those children fifth grade and younger. In addition, we enhanced our youth ministry through the addition of youth counselors to help plan and organize events and encourage youth to attend. We have been blessed to Extend Christ's Love through our youth ministry, both to our youth and their friends. In 2024, we served over 175 youth through our three youth groups!

In May, our youth ministry will be enhanced as Jennifer Probst transitions into the role of Director of Christian Education (DCE). At the end of the school year, Jen will step away from her preschool teaching responsibilities. She will continue to serve as director of our early childhood ministry and begin leading our Christian education and youth ministries. Jen has years of DCE experience and our Christian education and youth ministries will thrive under her leadership.

When the accreditation team evaluated our school last month, one of their eleven school improvement action items was that the school director needed more time to accomplish administrative responsibilities. After reviewing our plans to have Jen serve in this new role, the accreditation team acknowledged that this transition would fulfill this required action.

I want to thank our youth counselors, youth board, and Christian education board, both past and present, as well as many parent volunteers, for their faithful and sacrificial service. I am so thankful that our youth counselors will continue to serve. I know they will be a tremendous blessing to Jen as they have been to me.

Going forward, I plan to remain involved in our three youth groups, serving and supporting DCE Probst and our youth counselors. In addition, I plan to focus my attention on strengthening our ministry to post-high school young adults.

DCE Probst, our youth counselors, and I are always open to ideas and suggestions on how we can better serve our children, youth, and young adults. Don't hesitate to reach out to us!

Please pray for our confirmands and graduates, the children and youth of our congregation, and our youth leaders, as we endeavor to extend Christ's love to the next generation.

In Christ's Love to Extend Christ's Love,

Pastor Bauman

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St. Paul Early Childhood Ministry
Jen Probst, Director and
Preschool Teacher
director@stpaulcolumbus.org
Anne Wiltsey, Kindergarten Teacher
Michelle Schultz, Preschool Teacher
Gayla Alesandro, Sally Haak, Sarah Lewis,
Laurie Schultz, Claudia Sims, Caroline Wilcox,
Glory Wofford, Amy Yeley
Teacher Assistants

Sunday Schedule

Special Schedule on Easter Sunday
Festival Services at 7, 9, and 10:45 AM
Easter Breakfast Served from 7:30-9:45 AM

8 AM Divine Service

9:10 AM Fellowship

9:30 AM Sunday School

9:30 AM Radio Worship Service/91.1 FM

10:45 AM Divine Service

English and Spanish

12:15 PM Spanish Bible Study

7 PM Lutheran Hour/91.1 FM

Prayer Chain

Bonnie England
Phone: 812-447-7895



Musical Notes

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! We rejoice in the great news of our salvation through the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ—thanks be to God! Our hymns and liturgy once again resound with, “Alleluia,” after being buried during Lent. The Easter season sees the earth return to full flower and foliage as the warmer weather and rainfall restore a lush, green color to the landscape. The church’s song becomes brighter and more festive in reply to the victory granted to us as Christ overcame death for all eternity. Christ is risen—He is risen indeed!! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Psalm 150 extols us to praise God with all good gifts, using the gifts we have been given to return thanks and praise to our Creator.

Praise the Lord!

Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty heavens!

Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise Him according to His excellent greatness!

Praise Him with trumpet sound; praise Him with lute and harp!

Praise Him with tambourine and dance; praise Him with strings and pipe!

Praise Him with sounding cymbals; praise Him with loud clashing cymbals!

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord!

Many hymns draw inspiration from this psalm, with LSB 817, *Earth and All Stars*, coming to mind rather quickly. Even though the hymn can be summed up in three words- everything praise God- it still reflects on the words of Psalm 150 and provides a modern take on the historical text.

During the Easter season, let’s heed the words of Psalm 150 and praise the risen Lord with the musical gifts and talents first given to us by Him! We are created to praise God, both on earth and in heaven for all eternity. Let everything that has breath praise our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Thanks be to God!

Praise the Lord, for He is risen- Alleluia!

Dan



Sr. Handbells rehearse on Wednesday, May 7 from 6:00-7:00 pm.

Sr. Choir rehearses on Wednesday, May 7 and 14, from 7:00-8:15 pm.

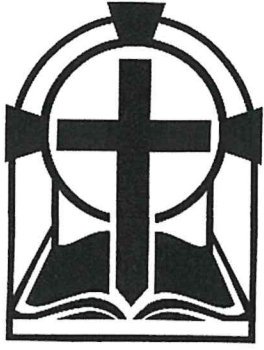
Jr. Choir rehearses on Sunday mornings from 9:30-9:50 am.

Small Group Handbells are on summer break and will return to rehearsing 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!



Early Childhood Ministry

There are so many jokes about Lutherans and their struggle with change. Lutherans are not the only ones that have difficulty with this change. Human nature finds comfort in boundaries and routines. Facing the unknown and adjusting to the unfamiliar can cause anxiety and stress.

Some types of change are cause for celebration. In a few weeks, our students will be excited about changing their school schedule for the relaxed pace of summer. For many students, the end of the school year ushers in the change of grade level. There is joy in a new classroom, new friends, and new teachers. For others, this time of year marks the successful completion of a hard-earned degree. Graduates leave homework behind and look forward to putting their skills to the test. The month of May is also a time of change for me.

When I first graduated from college, I had no idea what was in store for me. My husband and I were trained as Directors of Christian Education. We knew the likelihood of us serving in the same congregation or using our degrees at the same time would be rare. We knew that one of us would formally serve in the church and the other would serve God in other ways. It was during my husband's first call that I discovered my vocation in early childhood education.

A couple of years later, God blessed us with the opportunity to serve as Director of Christian Education (DCE) and Director of Parish Education in the same church. We had a wonderful time serving alongside one another. Unfortunately, hard times hit the church and I needed to lay aside my DCE skills. I was given the opportunity to resume my role as a preschool teacher. I found a lot of joy in this change in my vocation.

Every year, I relished getting to know my students and their families. I was learning just as much from my students as I was teaching them. My excitement to teach eventually led me to believe that my days of being a DCE were over. Imagine my surprise when my vocation was changing once more.



- 1** – Field day at Camp Lakeview
- 3** – CARNival (2:00-4:00 PM)
- 7** – Last day for Bookmobile
Last day for STREAM Class
ECM Board meeting at 7:30 PM
- 8** – Last day for Lambs Class
8:20 AM – Closing Chapel
Class presentations and early dismissal
- 9** – Last day for Doves Class
8:20 AM – Closing Chapel
Class presentations and early dismissal
- 11** – Mother's Day
- 13** – End of Year Staff Meeting
- 16** – Last day for Kindergarten
6:30 PM – Closing Chapel
- 21 to 23** – Floors waxed in School Building

This month, I take on the role of Director of Christian Education in a different way. I will continue to serve as the Director of education at our early childhood ministry. I will also take on the responsibilities of overseeing Christian education at the church. In both church and school, I will have the opportunity to build relationships with youth and their families.

By nature, I am every inch a doer. My title as Director will be an important focal point as I begin this change in roles. As I discover the ways in which I can serve you through Christian education, I will need your help along the way. Please partner with me as I make this change. I am excited about what the future brings as we work together in this new phase of ministry! I encourage you to reach out to me and let me know if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas.

~Blessings,
Jen Probst, ECM Director

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

Education & Youth

Reaching out with Christ's love to serve and grow!

Youth

St. Paul Youth

Sr. High Youth 9th – 12th Grade

Christ 4 Life

Jr. High Youth 6th – 8th grade

Good Friday, April 18th—Servant Event and Movie

SPY and C4Life youth are encouraged to attend the 10 AM morning service and then remain until 3 PM. We will set up and prepare for the Easter breakfast, enjoy lunch together, and watch *The Passion of the Christ*.

Easter Sunday, April 20th—Serve at the Easter Breakfast

SPY and C4Life youth should plan to serve at the Easter breakfast. Those attending the 7 AM Sunrise service should serve from after the service-clean-up. Those attending the 9 AM service should serve from 7:30-9 AM. Those attending the 10:45 AM service should serve from 9 AM until the beginning of the service.

Sundays, May 4th, 11th, and 18th—*Luther* Movie

Youth in grades 7-12 will watch and discuss the *Luther* movie during the Sunday School hour. We will meet in the confirmation room.

Sunday, May 4th—Sauce Making Day

Youth in grades 6-12 and their parents are invited to remain after the 10:45 AM service. We will enjoy pizza and then make the sauce for the county fair. Pick-up is at 2 PM.

Sunday, May 18th—Recognition of Graduates

We will recognize and pray for our high school and college graduates in worship on May 18th. Please email Mackenzie Wint at secretary@stpaulcolumbus.org with your name, the school you are graduating from, and your future plans.

Kids for Christ

Elementary Youth led by Chad and Rachel Fohne
with Matthew and Sarah Lewis

Good Friday, April 18th—Together as Family Day

KfC children and their parents are encouraged to remain after the 10 AM morning service on Good Friday for activities that will reinforce this holy day, concluding around 11:30 AM.

Sunday, May 18th—KfC Day

Join us for lunch (chicken sandwiches), devotions, and fun activities as we celebrate the end of the school year! KfC meets from noon-1:15 PM.

Youth Families

Ground Beef for Walking Tacos—Youth families and church members are invited to take home ground beef on **Sunday, April 27th**. Please brown the ground beef and return on or before **Sunday, May 4th** for Sauce Making Day.

Taco Barn Sign-Up—Please sign-up in the gathering space to serve one or more shifts at the Taco Barn during the Bartholomew County Fair, June 21st-28th.

Christian Education

No Christian Education Classes on Easter, April 20th

Sundays at 9:30 AM

First Steps of Faith (Parents and children two years and younger) meets in the conference room.

Fellowship Room

April 27th Confession of Faith presentations

May 4th—New study on the *Large Catechism* begins, taught by Pastor Fickenscher.

Youth

May 4th, 11th, and 18th—*Luther* Movies (Grades 7-12)

Beginning May 25th—*Hey Pastor, what about...?* (Grades 6-12)

Children

Now-May 18th—Regular Sunday School Schedule

May 25th–August 3rd—Summer Sunday School meets in the third-fourth grade classroom.

Wednesdays

9 AM: Romans

6 PM: Hebrews (resumes April 23rd)

Moms in the Word meets **Monday, May 5th** at 10 AM in the conference room. Join us for fellowship and a children's devotion.

Confirmation Sunday

On **Sunday, April 27th**, our eleven youth confirmands will give their Confession of Faith Presentations during the Sunday School hour. At the 10:45 AM service, they will be confirmed and received their first Communion. Please pray for our confirmands that they would always remain faithful to their Lord and Savior.

Recognition Sunday

Join us at the beginning of Sunday School on **May 18th** in the fellowship room as we recognize and thank our dedicated Sunday School teachers and helpers.

Youth Choirs

Jr. Choir (grades 2-6) and **Children's Choir** (preschool-first grade) rehearse during the Sunday School Hour through May 18th.

The **Children's Choir** will sing with the Early Childhood Ministry Students at the 10 AM Good Friday Service.

Jr. Choir sings at both services on **Sunday, May 18th**. Please have children in the music room at 7:30 AM to rehearse.

Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School on **Monday-Friday, July 14th-18th** from 9-11:30 AM. All children, ages three to sixth grade completed, as well as youth and adult volunteers can register now using the QR code or VBS link on the church homepage.

VBS Volunteers Needed: Adult and youth volunteers are needed to serve. You may sign-up to serve using the QR Code or in the gathering space.





St. Paul Lutheran Church
& Early Childhood Ministry

News and Notes

Extending Christ's Love Update

Your generosity is amazing! The 64-month Fulfillment Phase of our Extending Christ's Love campaign began September 1, 2024. By March 31st, in seven short months, total income has surpassed **\$1 million!** During this time, we have received additional pledges and gifts, as well as church members increasing their pledges or paying ahead on their pledges. The more that we are able to contribute now the less we will need to finance later on. We are so thankful for your generous support!

The Rummage Sale is fast approaching! This fundraiser can significantly impact income for Extending Christ's Love, but we need everyone's participation. Here's how you can help:

- Start Rummaging! Gather new or gently used items for the sale. Large items can be stored in the chapel. All other donations should be brought to the church anytime between Sunday, May 18th and Tuesday, June 3rd.
- Serve before or at the Rummage Sale: We need many volunteers to assist on Wednesday-Thursday, June 4th-5th to set up for the sale and on June 6th and 7th during the sale. Sign-up in the gathering space to serve.



Accreditation Team Identifies Facility and Playground Insufficiencies: The Visitation Team from National Lutheran Schools Accreditation were impressed with many aspects of our early childhood ministry. They commended the congregation's support for the school, our dedicated staff, and high-quality, age-appropriate curriculum. After their visit, our school was awarded a score of 97.55%. A school needs to achieve 80% or higher to maintain accreditation. The Visitation Team identified 11 required action items that must be rectified in the next five years, most of which relate to our facility and playground safety. Thankfully, all the facility and playground action items are already addressed in the design of our Christian Education Center. Thanks to all who served on an accreditation team and to our faithful and dedicated early childhood ministry staff for your faithful, Christ-like service!

Wonderful Reminders of Our Need for More Space for Mission and Ministry: The many events and activities of Holy Week and Easter are a great reminder of our need for additional ministry space. On Palm Sunday, we raised our hosannas of praise as the children carried in palm branches. During Sunday School, the fellowship room was full as our eleven confirmands offered their Confession of Faith. After worship, the joy and excitement of the children was contagious at the Easter egg hunt.

On Good Friday, our fellowship room was overflowing with children and families learning and growing together during our Together as Family time.

On Easter Sunday, our fellowship room was again filled to capacity as we fellowship together as a church family enjoying Easter breakfast. Because of the Easter breakfast, the chapel area for our Spanish service was moved to the Conference Room, a tight fit for worship as attendance at our Spanish services continues to increase.

Our Christian Education Center will enable us to extend the Gospel message of Christ crucified and risen to even more people! The Great Hall in the Christian Education Center will be a hub of mission and ministry. Larger than our current fellowship room, it will offer ample seating for the Easter breakfast and other large congregational events. It will have a dedicated chapel area for our Spanish worship services, which will also serve as the area where early childhood ministry students gather for Jesus Time and music during the week. In addition, the Christian Education Center will allow our early childhood ministry and Sunday School more space to grow and serve even more people with the saving Gospel of Christ!

Holy Week Services and Special Events

Maundy Thursday, April 17th

6:45 PM Divine Service concluding with the Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, April 18th

10 AM Morning Service—Sunday School Children's Choir and ECM Students sing

10:45 AM-11:30 AM—Together as Family Event (Parents and children)

10:45 AM-3 PM SPY and C4Life Servant Event, Lunch, Easter Breakfast Preparation, and watch *Passion of the Christ*

6:45 PM Divine Service concluding with the Service of Darkness

6:45 PM Spanish Good Friday Service

Easter Sunday, April 20th

7, 9, and 10:45 AM Festival Communion Services with children processing Alleluia Banners

7:30-9:45 AM Easter Breakfast served by Youth Families

10:45 AM Spanish Easter Service

Wednesday Evening Bible Study Resumes

You are invited to join us for Bible study every Wednesday at 6 PM beginning on **Wednesday, April 23rd** as we continue our study of the Epistle to the Hebrews.

You can also join us for our Wednesday morning class at 9 AM. We are currently studying the book of Romans.

Organ Concert and Bayan Demonstration

You and your friends are invited to an Organ Concert and Bayan Demonstration on **Friday, April 25th** at 7 PM featuring Dr. Marko Petricic of Ball State University as organist.

The bayan, invented in Russia in 1870, is similar to the accordion. Instead of the piano-like keys for the right hand, there are five rows of buttons. The left hand plays 120 buttons.

Please plan to attend this unique concert.

Confirmation Sunday is April 27th

We rejoice with our eighth-grade confirmands Adam Arnholt, Edwin Chun Escalante, Jaclyn Dettmer, Jonathon Dettmer, Grant Gilmore, Tabitha Hall, Zaid Hernandez Rendon, Emmitt Jones, Ridge Koester, Jocelyn Vogel, and Jesse Wofford as they will be confirmed and received their first Communion at the 10:45 AM service on **Sunday, April 27th**. Please also plan to attend Sunday School that morning as they will give their Confession of Faith Presentations.

Please pray for our confirmands that they would remain faithful to the one true God all their days.

ECM Fourth Annual CARnival

The fourth annual Early Childhood Ministry CARnival is **Saturday, May 3rd**. This year's CARnival will have a Hawaiian theme. *Please join us for an afternoon of food, fun, and fellowship!*

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.

Cake Walk: Tri-W will sponsor a cake walk at the CARnival. Please consider donating a cake for the cake walk. All cakes should be labeled with the name of the cake and list any allergens such as gluten, nuts, dairy, etc. Please put the cake on or in a disposable container. The cakes should be delivered to the church conference room by 1 PM on May 3rd. Please contact Mary Shaffer at 812-350-3195, if you are willing to donate a cake. Also let Mary know if you need to drop your dessert off earlier.

Taco Sauce Making and Walking Taco Barn Sign-up

SPY and C4Life youth will be making the Taco Barn Sauce on **Sunday, May 4th** at noon. A pizza lunch will be served. Volunteers are needed to take home frozen hamburger on Sunday, April 27th, brown the hamburger, then return it on Sunday, May 4th so youth can make the sauce. Please consider taking home some meat to cook!

We need many volunteers to serve at our Walking Taco Barn at the Bartholomew County Fair **Friday, June 21st-Saturday, June 28th**. The sign-up sheet is posted in the gathering space. Please sign up your family or serve with some friends for a shift, or more than one shift, at this years' fair!

Orphan Grain Train Work Day

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, May 6th** 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.

ECM Closing Chapels

The closing chapel for Little Lambs is **Thursday, May 8th** at 8:20 AM. The closing chapel for Little Doves is **Friday, May 9th** at 8:20 AM.

You are invited to attend the kindergarten closing chapel and celebration on **Friday, May 16th** beginning at 6:30 PM.

Clarity Baby Bottle Campaign

Clarity Baby Bottle Campaign begins on Mother's Day and continues through Father's Day. Empty baby bottles will be distributed beginning with the **Sunday, May 11th** services. Please take a bottle, fill it up with coins and/or bills and return it to the church on or before **June 15th**. Thanks for your support of this important outreach!

Combined Newsletter

The June and July Newsletter will be one issue distributed mid-May. All items for this newsletter must be submitted to the church office by **Monday, May 12th**.

Recognition Sunday is May 18th

Sunday, May 18th will be a Sunday filled with recognition and rejoicing. Please plan to attend worship and Sunday School:

Recognition of Graduates: At both services, we will recognize and pray for our high school and college graduates. If you are graduating, please contact Mackenzie Wint in the church office at secretary@stpaulcolumbus.org with the school you are graduating from and your future plans so that you can be included in the bulletin that day.

Recognition of New Members: At the beginning of Sunday School, we will recognize those who have joined our congregation in the past six months. Please plan to attend and welcome our newest members!

Recognition of Sunday School Teachers: We are blessed with dedicated Sunday School teachers and staff. As we end the school year, we will recognize and thank these faithful servants at the beginning of the Sunday School hour.

Communion Wafer Making

We are blessed with faithful volunteers that make Communion wafers for our celebrations of the Lord's Supper. Our next wafer making day is **Wednesday, May 21st** at 10:45 AM in the church kitchen. All are welcome to come and serve in this way!

Summer Church Office Hours

Summer church office hours begin the week of **May 18th**. Mackenzie Wint will only be in the office on Tuesday mornings, and the church office will be closed every Friday. If you need pastoral care, you may either call the church office or contact a pastor directly.

Education Building Closed: The entire education building, including the church offices, will be closed Wednesday, May 21st-Monday, May 26th for floor waxing and carpet cleaning, and in observance of Memorial Day.

Summer Sunday School

Summer Sunday School meets from **May 25th-August 3rd**. The following classes will be offered:

First Steps of Faith: Children 2 and younger meet with a parent(s) in the conference room for an age appropriate lesson.

KfC (Fifth graders and younger) meet in the third-fourth grade Sunday School room. On Sunday, July 13th, this class will meet in the sanctuary to prepare the Bible story skit for the first day of Vacation Bible School.

SPY and C4Life: On May 4th, 11th, and 18th, youth in grades 7-12 will meet together during Sunday School to watch and discuss the *Luther* movie. Grades 6-12 will meet for Summer Sunday School beginning May 25th.

Adults: The adult summer Bible study begins Sunday, May 4th, led by Pastor Fickenscher. The study will be on the *Large Catechism*, an in-depth study of what we believe, teach, and confess.

May Mission of the Month

May's Mission of the Month is LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces. As we celebrate Memorial Day, we give thanks to God for all who serve in the military and also for the chaplains who serve those who serve to protect and defend us. Our support of LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces provides Bibles, devotionals, and worship resources for our military personnel.

Preschool and Kindergarten Registration

Registration for the 2025-2026 school year is now open. Registration brochures are available in the gathering space and on the church website. **Please tell others about our preschool and kindergarten!** Currently, there are eight openings in kindergarten, one opening in Little Doves (4-year olds) and five openings in Little Lambs (3-year olds). Flyers are available in the gathering space and registration information is available on the church website. Encourage families to contact Director Jen Probst with questions or to schedule a school tour. Kindergarten tuition is free through the School Choice program and financial assistance is available for preschool families.

Open ECM Positions

We are looking for afternoon extended care teachers for the 2025-2026 school year. Responsibilities for this position begin at 11:15 AM and conclude at 4:45 PM Monday-Friday. This position is flexible, and interested applicants can work all five days or just a couple of them. For additional questions or to apply, please feel free to contact Director Jen Probst, director@stpaulcolumbus.org.

Rummage Sale

Our Rummage Sale to benefit Extending Christ's Love is **June 6-7**, and your help is needed! Please continue to gather items for the sale. Larger items can be stored in the chapel. Donations can be brought to church Sunday, May 18-Tuesday, June 3. Volunteers are needed to set up for the Rummage Sale on June 4-5, and to serve during the sale on June 6-7. Please sign up in the gathering space. If you have questions, contact Phil Burbrink at 812-344-9946.

Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School on **Monday-Friday, July 14th-18th** from 9-11:30 AM. The theme is: The Way in the Wilderness, where kids will learn about God's people journeying through the wilderness, discover how God walks with us when life gets hard, and how He will take us to the promised land.

All children, ages 3 to sixth grade completed, as well as youth and adult volunteers can register now using the QR code or VBS link on the church homepage.



VBS Volunteers Needed: Adult and youth volunteers are needed to serve. You may sign-up to serve using the QR Code or in the gathering space.

White Creek Basket Bingo

White Creek Lutheran School Bingo Night is **Friday, April 25th**. Tickets for this FUN (adults only) event are \$25 each and can be purchased online at www.whitecreek.org/page/bingo or by calling the school office at 812-342-6832. Doors open at 5 PM and play begins at 6 PM. Proceeds benefit the Middle School trip to Washington, DC! Please see the flyer in the gathering space for more details.

Camp Lakeview Work Weekend

Join Camp Lakeview on **Friday-Sunday, May 2-4** for their Spring Work Weekend. Help get camp ready for the summer. There are projects for all ages and ability levels. Serve during the day and enjoy fellowship time in the evenings. This weekend is FREE with meals and lodging provided and if you can't make it for the entire time, you are welcome to join for a day! This is a great option for families who want to spend time serving together, families that are new to camp to check things out before summer, or for couples or retired adults. To sign up go to lakeview.camp/workweekend.

Official Acts

Elliott Thornton Strimple, son of Matthew and Katelyn Strimple, was baptized into Christ on April 6th.

Donita Barringer was received by affirmation of faith on April 13th.

Jeremy, Kirsten, Grant, and Lane Gilmore were received by transfer on April 13th.

Rachel Wagoner was received by affirmation of faith on April 13th.

Jerrod Wray was received by confirmation on April 13th.

Kay Newton entered eternal life on March 11th and was given Christian burial on March 18th.

Jan Sherbundy entered eternal life on March 14th and was given Christ burial on March 17th.

Kathy Hoover entered eternal life on March 25th and was given Christian burial on March 29th.

Robert Risk entered eternal life on April 8th and was given Christian burial on April 12th.

Our Christian Stewardship

We are grateful for your joyful and generous response to our Lord's blessings through your gifts and offerings. At the end of the first quarter, we are in a healthy financial position. Your faithful stewardship enables us to continue to share the saving message of Christ crucified and risen here and throughout the world!

January-March 2025 Financial Report

Offerings Needed:	\$207,129
Offerings Received:	<u>\$270,477</u>
Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 63,348
Total Income:	\$344,488
Total Expenses:	<u>\$306,487</u>
Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 38,001

If you have any questions about our church finances, please contact Treasurer Mary Ann Nunn, Financial Secretary Rachel Fohne, or a member of the Board of Stewardship.

Our Latino Outreach

As alluded to in my blurb in the last newsletter, we've had a number of new smiling faces in our Spanish service. An exciting benchmark was for the first time during my time at Clifty one side of the Communion rail wasn't big enough to fit everyone that came up for Communion or the blessing. It's been a joy and privilege to watch our families mingle, laugh, and worship together. To celebrate spring break in Jennings County several of us gathered together for dinner in North Vernon. Big thanks to the Indiana LWML for sponsoring that evening out! We're having fun, and I'd like to invite you to be a part of that fun. The family of Noel and Mercedes, as well as the family of the brother of Mercedes, recently moved from Jennings County to Columbus just off of Highway 31 by 25th St. (Thanks to a caring member for getting them set up there!), and transportation to church needs to be arranged for them.



Would you potentially be available to help get them to church for the 10:45 service? It certainly wouldn't have to be a commitment for every Sunday. And don't let the language barrier intimidate you. Noel has some English, and the children are very good. Please let me know if you might be up for serving in this way. Also, a big, big SHOUT OUT to Renee Strietelmeier and Art Ramsey for the number of miles and hours that they have dedicated to getting our families to church over the years. Thank you to you both.

Things are peachy in Indy as well. The Trinity Lutheran School's elementary school teacher and I worked together on having a good number of her students sing in our Spanish service April 6. I've also been encouraged by a young man's recent continuous attendance; he's the one holding the cross in the Palm Sunday picture. What an honor it is to be a part of the Father's work of providing a weekly refuge that we get to call home!

--Pastor Fickenscher



LWML News

The ladies of the LWML cannot thank you enough for your support of the March 26th Lenten Supper and Silent Auction. We were able to raise more than \$1,800 for the Extending Christ's Love Campaign in just a few days. Whether you donated food for the nacho bar supper, offered items for the auction, bid on an auction item, dropped cash into the offering plate, or helped set up, serve, and take down in any capacity, *we appreciate you!* Items not bid on at auction either went back to the people who donated them, or they will be saved for the Community Rummage Sale in June. Blessings, indeed!

The **LWML Indiana District Spring Retreat** is **April 25-26** at the Brown County Inn in Nashville, IN. The theme for the retreat is "Words that start with RE: Rest, Relax, Recharge, Rejoice, Repeat." Join us for an overnight "recharge" in beautiful Brown County! Registration forms can be found on the LWML bulletin board, right above the Clarity collection bin. Clarity requests baby wipes, diapers, butt paste, and baby toiletries (shampoo, baby wash, lotion), and new and gently used 2T to 4T outfits as part of the retreat's in-gathering.



The **LWML Columbus Zone Spring Gathering** is **Saturday, May 3rd**, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Franklin. Registration begins at 8:30 AM with the program beginning at 9 AM. Ladies of St. Paul will likely be carpooling to the event, so let us know if you'd like to go.

Mark your calendars for **Family Game Night/Euchre Tourney** on **Friday, May 9th** at 6 PM. Remember, this is open to congregation members and friends of all ages, and it is not limited to just the game of euchre. Other card games and board games are available, and there is never a shortage of good food and fun fellowship. This month's free-will offering will go toward the in-gatherings for the national convention in June (Details TBD).

The LWML is joining with the Finance Committee and others to host a **Community Rummage Sale June 6-7** in support of Extending Christ's Love. As you continue your spring cleaning, be sure to save things that could be used in the sale. Interested in working on the days prior to or the days of the sale? Check out the sign-up sheet on the main bulletin board in the gathering space.

Registration is now open for the **LWML National Convention** June 26-29, 2025, in Omaha, Nebraska. The theme is "Growing in God's Grace" based on 2 Peter 3:18. Go to <https://arrowheadconferencesandevents.regfox.com/2025-lwml-convention> to register online. It's \$185 for the full weekend, but other options are available. So far, St. Paul has two women attending the convention. Will you join us?

Serving at St. Paul

Service	Usher Team	Elders	Greeters
8 AM	Team A	Jim Brock & Brian Arnholt	Steve and Bev Chinn
10:45 AM	Team E	Eric Scheidt & Tim Scheidt	Steve and Cathy Potter

Day	Acolyte	Flowers	Radio	Fellowship Hour	Lunch
4	8 AM Jonathan Dettmer		Dan and Taffy Schroer	Mike and Wilma Yeley	Zwanzigz (Sauce Making Day)
	10:45 AM Edwin Chun Escalante				
11	8 AM Tabitha Hall				Katie Arnholt
	10:45 AM Emma Gibson				
18	8 AM Danial Helt		Bonnie England	Evangelism Board	-----
	10:45 AM Grant Gilmore				
25	8 AM Emmitt Jones	Eric and Sariina Kalli			-----
	10:45 AM Lane Gilmore				



St. Paul Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Ministry

May 2025

Our Sunday Schedule
8 AM Divine Service
9:10 AM Fellowship
9:30 AM Sunday School
9:30 AM Radio Service
10:45 AM Divine Service English & Spanish

12:15 PM Spanish Bible Study
7 PM Lutheran Hour

Wednesday Schedule
9 AM Bible Study
10:15 AM Matins Service
6 PM Bible Study

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Radio Service and Lutheran Hour can be found on 91.1 FM Columbus/Madison, 89.1 FM Greensburg, 88.1 FM Versailles/Osgood, and 94.5 FM Salem				1 ECM field day at Camp Lakeview Church Office Closed	2 Church Reserved	3 9 AM LWNML Zone Rally in Franklin 2-4 PM ECM CARnival
4 Mite Box Sunday Small Group Handbells Noon-2 PM Pizza and Sauce Making 2-3 PM NWG Participant Meet- ing	5 10 AM Homeschool Religion Class 10 AM Moms in the Word	6	7 Last Day of STREAM 6 PM Sr Handbells 7 PM Sr. Choir 7:15 PM Elders Meeting	8 Last Day of School for Lambs 8:20 AM Lambs Chapel	9 Last Day of School for Doves 8:20 AM Doves Chapel 6 PM Euchar Night	10
11 Good Shepherd Sunday Mother's Day Sr. Handbells	12 June/July Newsletter Dead- line 6 PM Finance Committee Meeting 7 PM Council Meeting	13 Noon Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Church Reserved	14 7 PM Sr. Choir 7:15 PM Education Board Meeting	15	16 Last Day of Kindergar- ten 6:30 PM Closing Chapel and celebration	17
18 Recognition Sunday: Graduates, Sunday School Teachers, New Members Sr. and Jr. Choir Noon-1:15 PM KFC 1:30 PM Youth board and youth counselors meeting	19 5:30 PM Girl Scouts	20 6 PM Church Reserved	21 10:45 AM Communion Wa- fer Making	22	23	24
25 Summer Sunday School Begins	26 Memorial Day Church Office Closed	27	Education Building Floor Cleaning—Limited Access to the Building			
			28	29 Ascension Day 1:30 PM Hickory Creek Visit	30 Church Office Closed	31
Pastor Fickenscher on Vacation				Pastor Fickenscher on Vacation until 5/26		