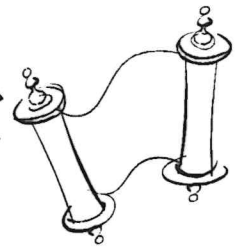


St. Paul Epistle



The Monthly Newsletter of St. Paul Lutheran Church

May 2026

Firmly Founded

Dear Church Family,

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Our Easter celebration continues with the great Fifty Days of the Easter season as we rejoice in our risen Savior and the blessing of living in resurrection life, joy, peace, and hope. Thanks to all who served in so many ways at worship services, meals, and special events to enrich our remembrance of our Lord's suffering and the celebration of His glorious resurrection.

Built on the Rock is our theme for the 2025-2026 school year. Christ is our solid rock. He is the stone the builders rejected that has become the cornerstone (Psalm 118:22). We are now "living stones" that are being built up in Christ as His Church (1 Peter 2:5).

In the coming weeks, we have many opportunities to celebrate the glorious reality that by God's grace, we are firmly founded on Christ and His Word.



- **Confession of Faith Sundays and Confirmation Sunday:** Jesus commended Peter for his good confession that Jesus is the "Christ, the Son of the living God," declaring that the Church would be built on this confession. On **April 19th and 26th**, we will hear and rejoice with our youth confirmands as they make the good confession and stand before the altar of God vowing to remain firmly founded on Christ the solid rock throughout their entire lives. Plan to attend our confirmands' Confession of Faith Sundays during Sunday School on April 19th and 26th not only to support our confirmands but also to be reminded of the foundational truths of Scripture upon which our faith and lives are built. Our youth confirmands will be confirmed and receive their first Communion on Sunday, April 26th at the 10:45 AM service.
- **Last Days of School:** May brings an end to another school year with closing chapel services for our Little Lambs, Little Doves, and Kindergartners. It always amazes me how much the faith of these little ones blossoms and flourishes from the beginning to the end of the school year. I thank God for all the children and families He sends us to serve through our early childhood ministry so that we can give them Jesus and a firm faith foundation, and I thank God for your continued prayers and support of our early childhood ministry.
- **Pastoral Vacancy at Faith Lutheran in Madison:** We are the church, God's family in this place. However, the church is *all* believers on earth and in heaven. Thus, we are called not only to serve our brothers and sisters in Christ here at St. Paul, but all our brothers and sisters in Christ. At the end of April, Pastor Pflug will be retiring after serving for more than 30 years as Faith's pastor. Faith congregation has asked us to lead worship and provide pastoral care during the vacancy. Thus, beginning Sunday, May 3rd, either Pastor Fickenscher, Patterson, Erkkinen, or I will be leading worship at Faith at 8:30 AM returning to St. Paul for the 10:45 AM service. Please pray for Faith, Madison and all congregations with a pastoral vacancy that the Lord of the Church would give them a faithful shepherd.
- **Vacation Bible School:** Our *Built on the Rock* theme will continue with Vacation Bible School **July 13-17**. Even as the Christian Education Center is being built, we will be able to point children to Christ, our solid rock and firm foundation. Please consider who you can invite. Also, many volunteers are needed for the week so please serve if you are able.
- **Congregational Forum:** We are in season of growth and expansion in every ministry area here at St. Paul. Thanks be to God! To keep you informed and to give you the opportunity to ask questions, we will have a Congregational Forum during the Sunday School hour on **Sundays, April 26th and May 3rd**. On April 26th, the Forum will begin after our confirmands offers their Confession of Faith presentations and will continue the entire Sunday School hour on May 3rd. Plan to attend as we learn and rejoice together in the remarkable things God is doing through the ministry of our congregation!

I pray God's richest blessings on you this Easter season and that you would always remain firmly founded on Christ, your Solid Rock!

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

Pastor Bauman

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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

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

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

We rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! He is alive—and we are saved by grace through Him alone. God’s plan for our forgiveness and salvation—the sacrifice of His only Son on the cross—is fulfilled. Let us raise our voices with thanks and praise to our risen Lord!

May begins the last month of the first half of the church year. The Easter season concludes when Christ ascends back to heaven, followed by the celebration of Pentecost and Holy Trinity Sunday. We will celebrate the Ascension on Sunday, May 17, through Word and song at both morning Divine Services. Ascension hymnody contains vivid imagery that doesn’t receive as much exposure as other texts due to the once-a-year nature of the event. The five hymns found in the Ascension section of LSB are: 491, Up Through Endless Ranks of Angels; 492, On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build; 493, A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing; 494, See, the Lord Ascends in Triumph; and 495, Look, Ye Saints, the Sight Is Glorious. Each text depicts both the return of Christ to His heavenly home and our earthly response as we wait for His second coming on the final day. In addition to congregational singing, both Sr. Handbells and the Sr. Choir will enrich the services. Please plan on singing joyfully, as we close out the Easter season with thanks and praise to our risen Lord and Savior!

Thank you to all of our choirs for their time, dedication, and musicianship this past season. You are a true joy to work with and a blessing to both St. Paul and me! I sincerely appreciate your willingness (even if it’s occasionally reluctant willingness:) to learn new and different music to praise the Lord and serve His Word. We all learn things together as we rehearse and grow in both knowledge of God’s Word and the church’s song, and, I learn so much from each and every member in my choirs. I am truly blessed beyond description to serve as kantor at St. Paul! We will begin rehearsing again in August and times/dates will be in the summer newsletter. Thank you!

We rejoice together as we extend Christ’s love through the church’s song!

Dan



Sr. Handbells will rehearse from 6:00-7:00 pm on Wednesday, May 6 and 13.

Sr. Choir will rehearse from 7:00-8:15 pm on Wednesday, May 6 and 13.

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

Small Group Handbells will resume 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!



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

Every year, I continue to be blessed as I work alongside some incredible servants of the Lord! I love how our church and school staff are united in supporting the holistic development of our students and their families. I want to highlight and celebrate the contributions that Caroline Wilcox, Alyssa

Schultz, and Glory Wofford have provided to our students and staff. We rejoice that Caroline and her husband will welcome a daughter and take on the vocation of parenthood. Alyssa has been blessed with an offer for a full-time teaching position at another school. And we continue to support Glory as she goes on to become a Lutheran elementary school teacher. We wish them well in their future endeavors.

St. Paul Lutheran Early Childhood Ministry is seeking individuals to join our staff as we lay the foundation for lifelong learning. Interested parties are encouraged to apply for a lead preschool teaching position on our website (www.stpaulcolumbus.org/careers). Preschool instruction is held Monday through Friday in the mornings. We are also looking for an individual to serve in an Extended Care/Teacher's Aide position, Monday through Friday from 7:00 to 9:00 AM. Please look at the website for the full details. Feel free to contact Jen Probst for more information.

~Blessings, Jen Probst, ECM Director

ECM Board Meeting – Wednesday, April 22nd at 5:30 PM



- 6** – Last day of STREAM class
- 7** – Last day for Lambs class, early dismissal and no Extended Care
- 8** – Last day for Doves class, early dismissal and no Extended Care
- 10** – Mother's Day
- 11 to 15** – Preschool staff clears classrooms for the summer
- 13** – Staff End of Year Meeting
- 19** – Last day of Kindergarten, no Extended Care
 - Kindergarten closing Chapel at 6:30 PM
- 26** – Floor cleaning in the school

CARNival

Everyone is invited to our community CARNival! Please join us from 2:00-4:00 PM on Saturday, May 2nd for free food, games, and prizes. Perhaps you would like to be an activity host. Activity ideas include cornhole, pass out candy/trinkets from a decorated car trunk, hula hoop contest, etc. Please contact Andrea Cotton, Marissa Younger, Emily Linke, or Jen Probst to host a provided activity or come up with your own. Prizes will be awarded to the most popular CARNival stations. You can also sign up on the piece of paper in the Gathering Space or through the following link: <https://forms.gle/DWWRZWY0NHZTouzi8>. Please help us invite others to come and join us on this fun day!



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, unexpectedly. It is definitely worth putting your name on the list for a classroom 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 May Bible Readings

1	2 Samuel 5:1-10 1 Chronicles 11-12	11	2 Samuel 10 1 Chronicles 19, Psalm 20	21	2 Samuel 22-23, Psalm 57
2	Psalm 133	12	Psalms 65-67, 69-70	22	Psalms 95, 97-99
3	Psalms 106-107	13	2 Samuel 11-12 1 Chronicles 20	23	2 Samuel 24, 1 Chronicles 21-22, Psalm 30
4	2 Samuel 5:11-6:23 1 Chronicles 13-16	14	Psalms 32, 51, 86, 122	24	Psalms 108-110
5	Psalms 1-2, 15, 22-24, 47, 68	15	2 Samuel 13-15	25	1 Chronicles 23-25
6	Psalms 89, 96, 100-101, 105, 132	16	Psalms 3-4, 12-13, 28, 55	26	Psalms 131, 138-139, 143- 145
7	2 Samuel 7 1 Chronicles 17	17	2 Samuel 16-18	27	1 Chronicles 26-29, Psalm 127
8	Psalms 25, 29, 33, 36, 39	18	Psalms 26, 40, 58, 61-62, 64	28	Psalms 111-118
9	2 Samuel 8-9 1 Chronicles 18	19	2 Samuel 19-21	29	1 Kings 1-2 Psalms 37, 71, 94
10	Psalms 50, 53, 60, 75	20	Psalms 5, 38, 41-42	30	Psalm 119:1-88
				31	1 Kings 3-4, 2 Chronicles 1 Psalm 72

Sunday School Lessons

May	<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>
3	TBD	Canaanite Woman's Daughter	Saul's Conversion
10	TBD	The Lost Son	Peter is Freed from Prison
17	TBD	Jesus' Ascension	Paul's Shipwreck

Senior High (7th to 12th Grade): Chronology of Holy Week

Summer Sunday School

May	<u>First Steps of Faith</u> <i>Infant to 2-year-olds</i>	<u>Elementary</u> <i>Preschool to 5th Grade</i>	<u>Jr/Sr High</u> <i>6th Grade to 12th Grade</i>
	<i>Location: Conference Room</i>	<i>Location: 3rd & 4th Grade Room</i>	<i>Location: Sr High Youth Room</i>
24	TBD	Case of the Broken Debris	Misconception: God & Bible
31	TBD	Case of the Floating Basket	Misconception: Sin & Grace

Sunday Adult Bible Study – Fellowship Room

- May 3rd – Congregational Forum
- May 10th – Hey Pastor, What About...? (Pastor Patterson)
- May 17th – Trinity Lutheran High School (Clayton Darlage)
- May 24th – Kantor Mau
- May 31st – Kantor Mau

Wednesday Adult Bible Studies

- 9:00 AM – Romans
- 6:00 PM – Isaiah

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

Wanted: Summer Sunday School Teachers

Please help us teach our youth about Jesus! The list below features the title of the Lesson that we need a volunteer to teach. Jen Probst will provide the leader's guide and student leaflets for the Biblical lessons. If the date does not have a title, someone has volunteered to teach that lesson. This sign-up sheet is also located in the Gathering Space on the Bulletin Board. If you would like more details, please speak to Jen Probst.

Elementary (PK – 5 th Grade)	Date	Jr/Sr High (6 th -12 th Grade)
The Case of the Broken Debris	May 24	
The Case of the Floating Basket	May 31	
The Case of the Scarlet Cord	June 7	
The Case of the Little Coat	June 14	
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	
VBS Skit Preparation	July 12	VBS Skit Preparation
The Case of the Oil and Bandages	July 19	
The Case of the Worn Broom	July 26	
The Case of the Dried Palms	Aug 2	

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

Please join us for Vacation Bible School (VBS), where we will build our foundation on the Rock of Jesus Christ. It will be held from July 13 to July 17, from 9:00 to 11:30 AM. We are looking for individuals to help support youth during this fun week. A sign-up sheet is available in the Gathering Space or on our website for:

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.

We are also looking for VBS Opening resource donations. Items include LARGE cardboard boxes, wooden pallets, cloth (white, stone colored, or clay brown) to make the temple/tabernacle, and long cardboard tubes. If you have any questions, please reach out to director@stpaulcolumbus.org for more information.

Youth Ministry

Taco Barn


Once a year, youth and adults help us host a Taco Barn at the Bartholomew County Fair. The Taco Barn sells Walking Tacos (corn chips, taco meat, and other fixings) and drinks. Proceeds help support the youth program, for the year. This fundraiser establishes the youth ministry budget for our three youth programs: Kids for Christ (KfC): Preschool through 5th Grade, Christ for Life (C4Life): Junior High, and St. Paul Youth (SPY): High School.

The Fair will be held from June 19 through June 27. There are 2 shifts offered each day of the Fair: 4:00-7:00 PM and 7:00 to close (around 10:00 or 11:00 PM). Each shift needs 4 people. Friends and family can help support this effort by volunteering for a shift (the sign up sheet can be found in the Gathering Space) and purchasing a delicious walking taco meal while you are at the Fair. For more information, please speak with Katie Arnholt.

Gifts of Time and Talent:

Acolytes			Music	
8:00 AM	10:45 AM		8:00 AM	10:45 AM
Naomi Lewis	Clark Neawedde	3	Small Group Handbells	
Kylie Price	Ellis Sperry	10	Jr. Choir	
Henry Seifer	Faith Wofford	17	Sr. Choir; Sr. Handbells	
Daryn Vogel	Kevin Chun Escalante	24	-----	
Jace Vogel	Alex Essex	31	-----	

Connecting to Others:

 <p><i>Kids for Christ youth group for preschool to 5th Grade</i></p>	<p>Sunday, May 17th beginning at Noon</p> <p>All families with children 5th 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.</p>
	<p>C4Life</p> <p><i>Christ for Life youth group for 6th to 8th Grade</i></p>
<p><u>Sunday, April 26th</u></p>	<p>Take ground beef home to brown and return by Sunday, May 3rd.</p>
<p><u>Sunday, May 3rd</u></p>	<p>Pizza and sauce making day. Bounce house and other activities following servant event.</p>
<p><u>Sunday, May 17th</u></p>	<p>Progressive lunch. Come and join us for a fast-food adventure! On this day, we will decide on different food establishments to “make” our meal. For example, we will go to one place for an appetizer and drinks. Another location will be where we pick up our main meal and side dish. The last place we go to will be for dessert. Drivers are needed.</p>

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

News and Notes

Extending Christ's Love Update

*The Church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation By water and the Word.*

From heaven He came and sought her To be His holy bride;

With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died. (Hymn 644 stanza 1)

Jesus Christ is the Church's one foundation. On Him alone we build. These past weeks, there has been plenty of activity at the building site for our Christian Education Center, but it may not look like this is the case when you drive by. Why? Because the work has been under the ground level, footings and foundations, to ensure the Christian Education Center is firmly founded and stands for decades to come. However, what will make the Christian Education Center firmly founded on THE Solid Rock is not footings and foundations, but what occurs *inside* the Center—Spanish worship services, Sunday School, Bible studies, Jesus Time in our early childhood ministry, and youth events. Whenever God's Word is spoken, the Holy Spirit is at work to build and strengthen faith. Thanks to your generosity we are creating a space and place for faith to blossom and grow, built on Christ, our Solid Rock.



Congregational Forums: Our goal is to keep you informed of the construction progress as well as our capital campaign Extending Christ's Love. We encourage you to attend the Congregational Forums on **Sundays, April 26th and May 3rd** during the Sunday School hour. We will hear reports from both the Building and Finance Committees, and you will have the opportunity to ask questions.

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. Please watch upcoming bulletins and newsletters for days and times when the chapel will be open so that you can drop off items. Also, many volunteers will be needed before the sales to organize items as well as volunteers during the sale. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Phil Burbrink at 812-344-9946 or Rachel Fohne at 812-343-3786.

Catalog of Needed Items: In the coming weeks, the *Catalog of Needed Items* will be made available in print form and online. The *Catalog* is an opportunity to purchase needed items for the Christian Education Center over and above your pledge. Sponsored furnishings and other items can be given in memory of, in thanksgiving for, or in honor of a loved one. This information will be included in the Dedication bulletin for the Christian Education Center next year.

Please continue to pray for Extending Christ's Love and for our congregation. If you have any questions, please contact Building Committee Chair Warren Scheidt or Finance Committee Chair Phil Burbrink.

Confession of Faith and Confirmation Sundays

We rejoice with our eighth grade confirmands Adelyn Arnholt, Julia Burbrink, Zaylie Gonsior, Danial Helt, William Laws, and Kylie Price as they offer their Confession of Faith during the Sunday School hour on **Sundays, April 19th and 26th**. During fellowship hour on April 19th, we will honor our confirmands. During Sunday School, they will answer questions regarding the foundational truths of God's Word. On Sunday, April 26th, they will offer their Confession of Faith presentations. They will be confirmed and received their first Communion at the 10:45 AM service on **Sunday, April 26th**.

Please plan to attend these Confession of Faith Sundays. Please pray for our confirmands that they would remain faithful to the one true God all their days.

Fundraising Fiesta

Lunch will be served on **Sunday, April 19th** beginning at noon 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

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

You are invited to attend our Early Childhood Ministry CARNival on **Saturday, May 2nd** from 2-4 PM. This year's CARNival will have a Hawaiian theme. Activities include baby goats, inflatables, cake walk, food, games, and prizes. This is a community event so please plan to attend and invite others!

Taco Sauce Making and Walking Taco Barn Sign-up

SPY and C4Life youth will be making the Taco Barn Sauce on **Sunday, May 3rd** at noon. A pizza lunch will be served. Volunteers are needed to take home frozen hamburger on Sunday, April 26th, brown the hamburger, then return it on or before Sunday, May 3rd 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 19th -Saturday, June 27th**. 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!

Moms in the Word

All mothers and their children are invited to attend our final Moms in the Word gathering for the 2025-2026 school year on **Monday, May 4th** 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, May 5th** 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.

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 6th** at 10:45 AM in the church kitchen. All are welcome to come and serve in this way!

ECM Closing Chapels

The closing chapel for Little Lambs is **Thursday, May 7th** at 8:20 AM. The closing chapel for Little Doves is **Friday, May 8th** at 8:20 AM.

You are invited to attend the kindergarten closing chapel and celebration on **Tuesday, May 19th** 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 10th** services. Please take a bottle, fill it up with coins and/or bills and return it to the church on or before June 21st. 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 11th**.

Ascension Service of Song

Sunday, May 17th is Ascension Sunday, and we will be celebrating our Lord's Ascension with a special Service of Song led by our Sr. Choir and Sr. Handbells. Please plan to attend and invite others as we raise our voices in worship and praise to our ascended and reigning Lord and Savior!

Recognition Sunday is May 17th

Sunday, May 17th 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 mackenzie.wint@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.

Trinity Lutheran High School Presentation

On **Sunday, May 17th**, during the Sunday School hour, Principal Clayton Darlage of Trinity Lutheran High School will give an update on the school and share information about the *Way. Truth. Life.* capital campaign.

Summer Church Office Hours

Summer church office hours begin the week of May 17th. Mackenzie Wint will be in the office only on Tuesday mornings, and the church office will be closed on Fridays. If you need pastoral care, you may either call the church office or contact a pastor directly.

The church office will also be closed on **Monday, May 25th** in observance of Memorial Day.

Summer Sunday School

Summer Sunday School meets from May 24th-August 2nd. The following classes will be offered:

First Steps of Faith (infants and toddlers with a parent) will meet in the conference room.

Children's Class (preschool-fifth grade) will meet in the third-fourth grade Sunday School room.

Youth Class (sixth-twelfth grade) will meet in the youth room.

Adults: Kantor Mau will be leading the adult class most Sundays during the summer focusing on church music and hymnody. On two Sundays, there will be special presentations during the Sunday School hour. On June 14th, Vicar Nathaniel Bauman will be preaching and discussing his vicarage experience. On Sunday, July 5th, Pastor Eric Erkinen who served as a military

chaplain for many years will share his experiences as part of our Recognition of Veterans Sunday.

Volunteers are needed to teach during Summer Sunday School May 24th-August 2nd. Materials will be provided. Please sign up in the gathering space. If you have any questions, please contact DCE Probst.

Latino Outreach Update

Please join us for a fundraising lunch on **Sunday, April 19th** after the 10:45 AM service to support Noel and Mercedes and their family. Nicaraguan cuisine will be on the menu along with hotdogs and other items. A freewill offering will be collected. You're of course able to give even if you're not able to stay to eat. Checks can be made out to St. Paul with "Noel Lopez" on the memo line.

On March 18th a handful of us spent the day learning about Holy Week and exploring Brown County during spring break.

Please let Pastor Fickenscher know if you would be willing to serve as a volunteer driver to get members, particularly Latino members, to appointments. The hope is to have a list of several volunteers to help ensure that folks from households with one or no cars get to where they need to go and that this burden doesn't fall to just one or two people. Thank you!

--Pastor Fickenscher

Mission of the Month

Our May Mission of the Month is Tanzania Mission. Our support of this endeavor, led by Pastor Peter Brock, son of Jim and Kathy Brock, provides theological education for future pastors and church workers in Tanzania. The church is experiencing remarkable growth in Tanzania by God's grace. Our support is helping to ensure that church workers are well trained and firmly founded on God's Word.

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! Use this QR code to sign up children ages three-sixth grade. You can also visit the church website (stpaulcolumbus.org) and click on the VBS 2026 tab.



To volunteer, please visit the VBS 2026 tab on the church website or sign-up in the gathering space.

Shoebboxes 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.

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. Please contact Director Jen Probst (812-376-6504;

director@stpaulcolumbus.org) to schedule a tour or for more information.

Sunday Lunches

Thanks to all who volunteered to serve lunches this school year.

April 19th: Fundraiser: Nicaraguan Cuisine and hotdogs—KfC Day

April 26th: No Lunch Served—Confirmation Sunday

May 3rd: Pizza—Sauce Making Day

May 10th: No Lunch Served—Mother's Day

May 17th: Hotdogs—KfC; Final lunch for the school year

St. Paul Lutheran SGO

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

Thanks to your generosity we have exceeded \$100,000 in donations to our St. Paul Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization. These gifts directly impact our school ministry and the families we serve.

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 March 31, 2026: **\$100,953**

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! Please reach out to Rachel Fohne at rachel.fohne@stpaulcolumbus.org or 812-343-3786 to get your questions answered.

Financial Updates!

The Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) rules allow 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 about your specific situation. A QCD from an IRA can be an excellent way to give to St. Paul.

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.



Francis Scheidt Memorial Plaque Dedication Set for May 17th

Francis Edward Scheidt, son of William C. Scheidt and Pearl Armuth Scheidt, was the only St. Paul member that died in World War II. Francis was born on October 19, 1922. He attended St. Peters Lutheran School. His mother died when he was twelve. Francis then went to live with his maternal grandparents (Armuth), but also spent time with his uncle and aunt, Elmer and Emily Schroer. Francis was a talented landscape artist.

When he was 19, Francis voluntarily signed up for the Navy. He was a fireman in the engine room on the USS Chevalier. While on a mission in the South Pacific, his ship was torpedoed. The USS Chevalier was already badly damaged when a following US ship collided into the rear engine room of the USS Chevalier. Francis Scheidt was reported Missing In Action on October 6, 1943, two weeks before his 21st birthday.

In 1945, St. Peters Lutheran Church included Francis Scheidt in a Service of Commemoration along with four St. Peters men that lost their lives in World War II. Although Francis is recognized in the St. Paul Lutheran military service listing, he has had no grave marker nor an engraved brick at Columbus' POW MIA Monument.

To rectify this oversight, a government issued plaque recognizing Francis' service will be mounted on his parents' gravestone in the St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery. On **Sunday, May 17 at 12:30 PM**, St. Paul members and Francis Scheidt's relatives are invited to attend a brief gravesite memorial thanking God for Francis Scheidt and all others who put themselves in harm's way to protect our freedoms. The gravesite memorial will be led by Pastor Bauman. An engraved brick for Francis will be added to the newly redesigned POW MIA Monument once it is built on the courthouse lawn.

A display of memorabilia related to Francis Scheidt will be in the church's gathering space on May 17th.

LWML News

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with our **Lenten Meal and Silent Auction** on March 25th. The food, desserts, and drinks for our Taco Bar were well received, and we had twelve baskets donated to the auction. More than \$800 was collected for the Extending Christ Love campaign, and we couldn't have done it without your help. Thanks to Elaine Wilson for chairing the food and Sariina Kalli for chairing the auction.

Seven ladies from St. Paul attended the **Columbus Zone Spring Gathering** April 11th at St. John's, White Creek. Pastor Andrew Currao from Redeemer Lutheran Church in Seymour presented about 4KenyasKids prior to the business meeting. Indiana District

President Sarah Rippy sent a letter with updates and highlights for the upcoming convention. Our own Lydia Haak has agreed to be a Young Women's Representative to the convention, and so far, four ladies of St. Paul will be joining her.



St. Paul LWML will be hosting the **Columbus Zone Fall Gathering** on **Saturday, September 26th**. More details will come closer to the event.

The next **Family Game Night and Euchre Tourney** is **Friday, May 8th**, at 6 PM in the fellowship room. We had record numbers of players and gamers in February, so we invite you all to bring a friend and join us again in May for good food, fellowship, and fun. Remember, euchre isn't the only game available on game nights.

Registration is open for the **Indiana District Convention** June 26-28, in Evansville. 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, servant events, luncheon and interest session speakers, and more, in the most recent *Good News* at <https://lwmlindiana.org>. St. Paul has two rooms reserved for anyone who would like to come.

St. Paul's ongoing **Feed My Lambs** project is expanding! We currently provide a meal and a gift to the parents of a new baby, but we have recently been made aware of a need to minister to families who have had a miscarriage or lost a baby. So, our ministry will now include making a meal and a blanket for these families. If anyone would like to be added to the call list for making a meal on short notice (maybe within a couple of days,) or if you would like to knit or crochet a small white blanket, please contact Kris Taylor at 812-350-0946. Also, if anyone would like to donate a Thrivent card for some of the food, blanket-making supplies, and items for our gift bags, we would appreciate it. Thank you!

The LWML is looking for women to help **create and cut the Convention Banner**. Sewing and cutting fabric help is requested from 9 AM to noon on **Saturday, May 16th** in the fellowship room. Any help is appreciated!

Serving at St. Paul

Service	Usher Team	Elders	Greeters
8 AM	Team A	Jim Brock & Brian Arnholt	
10:45 AM	Team E	Eric Scheidt & Jeff Schoer	

Day	Acolyte	Flowers	Radio	Fellowship Hour	Lunch
3	8 AM Naomi Lewis		Marvin and Joyce Boggs	Colin and Linda Scheidt	Chick-Fil-A
	10:45 AM Clark Neawedde				
10	8 AM Kylie Price				-----
	10:45 AM Ellis Sperry				
17	8 AM Henry Seifer		Mike and Jan Hackman	Board of Evangelism	Katie Arnholt
	10:45 AM Faith Wofford				
24	8 AM Daryn Vogel	Eric and Sariina Kalli			-----
	10:45 AM Kevin Chun Escalante				
31	8 AM Jace Vogel				-----
	10:45 AM Alex Essex				

FREE FOR CHILDREN
3-12 YEARS OLD



VBS 2026

REGISTER HERE



BUILT ON THE ROCK

In a world of sinking sand, Christ is our solid Rock! Join us for a week of learning and growing as we are built up and firmly founded on the strong and powerful Word of God.

JULY 13-17 **9-11:30AM**






DONATION FORM

Please complete the entire form; missing information may delay the receipt of your Indiana SGO State Tax Certification number.

PLEASE NOTE: Direct gifts to "The Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization of Indiana", not to the school.

Yes! I am donating \$ _____ to support scholarships in Indiana.

- Check Enclosed
- Credit/Debit Online: www.LutheranSGO.org/Donate
- Credit/Debit Form: Complete the information below
- PayPal: www.LutheranSGO.org/Donate
- Wire Transfer
- Other: _____
- Donor Advised Fund Distribution
Name of the DAF: _____
- IRA Distribution:
Name of the IRA: _____
- Gifts of Grain:
Name of the Grain Elevator: _____
- Appreciated Securities: _____
For instructions to donate appreciated securities, call us at 260-203-4509 or visit www.LutheranSGO.org/Donate
- I want our gift to be anonymous to the school (only the Department of Revenue will know).

Name: _____ Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Phone: _____
 Email*: _____ Home Church: _____
 Card Number: _____ Exp: ____ / ____ CVC: _____

** If an email is provided, we will email your SGO tax code letter; if you prefer to receive the letter via U.S. Postal Service, mark this box:*

- Please designate this gift to the following Indiana Non-Public
 Name: St. Paul Early Childhood Ministry City: Columbus, IN
 Name: _____ City: _____
 Name: _____ City: _____

**Double your Support!
We accept Matching Gifts.**

In Memory of: In Honor of: _____

Please notify this person of my gift: Name: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Don't have a specific school? To direct your SGO gift to our General Fund for any student in need, mark this box:

Submit by mail to:
 The Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization of Indiana, Inc.
 PO Box 5174
 Fort Wayne, Indiana 46895

Or email to:
donations@LutheranSGO.org
 We will send your unique School State Tax Credit Certificate Number with your gift acknowledgement.

Questions? Contact us:
info@LutheranSGO.org
 260-203-4509
www.LutheranSGO.org

The Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization of Indiana, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation approved by the Internal Revenue Service to receive tax-advantaged contributions. Our Tax ID number is 45-4856406. We are also recognized as a "scholarship granting organization" under Indiana Code 20-51-1-7 for "school scholarship programs" certified by the Indiana Department of Education under IC 20-51-1-5. We are authorized to make



St. Paul Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Ministry

May 2026

Our Sunday Schedule
8 AM Divine Service
 9:00 AM Radio Service
 9:10 AM Fellowship
 9:30 AM Sunday School

10:45 AM Divine Service English & Spanish
 Noon Lunch (5/3 & 5/17)
 12:15 PM Spanish Bible Study
 7 PM Lutheran Hour

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	4 10 AM Homeschool Religion Class 10 AM Small Group Handbells 10 AM Moms in the Word Pastors Conference	<u>Wednesday Schedule</u> 9 AM Bible Study 10:15 AM Matins 6 PM Bible Study 6 PM Sr. Handbells - final rehearsal 5/13 7 PM Sr. Choir - final rehearsal 5/13	6 10:45 AM Wafer Making 7:15 PM Elders Meeting	7 Last Day for Lambs 8:20 AM Chapel 6 PM Tri-W Meeting	8 Last Day for Doves 8:20 AM Chapel 6 PM Euchre and Game Night	9
3 Mite Box Sunday Small Group Handbells 9:30 AM Congregational Update Noon SPY and C4Life lunch and sauce making	5 9 AM-Noon OGT Workday	13 12:15 PM Staff Meeting	14 Ascension Day	15	16 9 AM-Noon LWML Servant Event	23
10 Mother's Day Jr. Choir Clarity Baby Bottle Campaign Begins	11 June/July Newsletter Deadline	19 Last Day for Kindergarten 6:30 PM Closing Chapel and Celebration	20	21	22 Church Office Closed Rachel Fohne on Vacation until May 27th	29 Church Office Closed Pastor Bauman in St. Louis Until Monday 6/1
17 Celebration of Ascension Ascension Service of Song Sr. Choir and Sr. Handbells Recognition of Graduates, New Members, and Sunday School Teachers 9:30 AM Trinity LHS Presentation Noon KFC Lunch Event Noon SPY & C4Life Progressive Meal 12:30 PM Francis Scheidt Memorial Dedication	18 6 PM Finance Meeting 7 PM Council Meeting	26 Church Reserved	27	28 1:30 PM Hickory Creek Visit	30	31 Trinity Sunday