

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

P. O. Box 267, 201 Veterans Dr., Columbus, TX 78934

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April 9, 2023 Contemporary 11:05 AM

Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day

Senior Pastor	Alan Kethan	<u>Home:</u> (979)-942-9060	<u>Cell:</u> (830)-708-1200
Deacon of Word and Service			Sandye Fletcher
Youth & Family Specialist			Stephanie Polasek
Music Minister			Robert Eaton
Congregational Chair			Donna Maas
St. Paul Christian Learning Academy Director			Briana Bedford
Secretary			Elena Holub
Custodian			Tomasa Rosales
Parish Nurse Program Coordinator			DyAnn Lauzon

MISSION STATEMENT: Love God, Love Neighbor (*Luke 10:27*)

VISION STATEMENT: We will work to strengthen and grow closer in relationship to God and to one another.

- *As we enter into a sacred time and space, a friendly reminder to please set your cell phone to vibrate.*
- ***We want to welcome all of our guests today and thank you for worshiping with us. If you have any questions or would like more information regarding our services, programs, day care, or preschool programs at St. Paul, please visit our Welcome Center in the narthex immediately following our service, and an attendant will be more than happy to assist you. If this is your first time at St. Paul, we hope you will take a gift along with you. We also have a gift bag for children.***
- *Hearing Assist devices are available for those who need assistance in hearing worship service better. Please see a person in the Sound Room (Usher Room) to request the use of a device during worship.*

* **This symbol indicates that the congregation is invited to stand physically or in spirit.**

INTRODUCTION

This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, "God shows no partiality" (Acts 10:34): Christ's resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God's faithfulness, power,

and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God's endless love.

(Please rise, if it is comfortable.)

P What at once seemed hopeless,
C God fulfilled His promise.
P What was once a dark day,
C light has come into the world.
P What was once dead,
C is now alive.
P Jesus is risen from the dead!
C He has risen indeed! Alleluia!

*** THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

P Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Jesus Christ, let us give thanks, for in the waters of baptism, we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ, and we are a new creation. For this saving mystery, let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.
C Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOSPEL SONG: HE IS ALIVE!

CHORUS:
He, He, He is alive!
He, He, He is alive!

I can see a-bove the clouds and
I can hear Him call my name out loud! **CHORUS**

He has come that I might have life
And more life than I have had before! **CHORUS**

GOSPEL: Matthew 28:1-10
Sorrow gives way to "fear and great joy" when two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: Jesus is risen!

A The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter 28, verses 1-10.

¹After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance

was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

GOSPEL SONG: HE IS ALIVE!

CHORUS:

He, He, He is alive!

He, He, He is alive!

**He has promised power from on high
To those who receive the Holy Ghost! CHORUS**

**Easter morning, day is dawning,
Christ the King has won the victory! CHORUS**

END: Alive!

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CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

*** SERMON SONG: THIS IS AMAZING GRACE**

**Who breaks the power of sin and darkness? Whose love is mighty
And so much stronger? The King of Glory, the King above all kings.**

**Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder? Who leaves us breathless
In awe and wonder? The King of Glory, the King above all kings.**

CHORUS:

*This is amazing grace. This is unfailing love. That You would take my place,
That You would bear my cross. You laid down Your life that I would be set free.
Oh, Jesus I sing for all that You've done for me.*

**Who brings our chaos back into order? Who makes the orphan
A son and daughter? The King of Glory! The King of Glory!
Who rules the nations with truth and justice? Shines like the sun in
All of its brilliance. The King of Glory, the King above all things. CHORUS**

BRIDGE:

**Worthy is the Lamb who was slain. Worthy is the King who conquered the grave.
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain. Worthy is the King who conquered the grave.
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain. Worthy is the King who conquered the grave.
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain. Worthy, worthy, worthy. . . oh**

**This is amazing grace. This is unfailing love. That You would take my place,
That You would bear my cross. You laid down Your life that I would be set free.
Oh, Jesus I sing for all that You've done for me.
Jesus I sing for all that You've done for me.**

CCLI Song #6333821 Words and Music by Phil Wickham, Jeremy Riddle, and Josh Farro © 2012
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*** APOSTLES' CREED**

A With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(The congregation may be seated during the prayers.)

PRAYERS

A United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

**A You call your church to witness to your salvation. We give thanks for all theologians,
preachers, and teachers who proclaim your gospel. Equip all the baptized to share the joy of
the resurrection in all we say and do.**

A brief silence.

A You bring abundant life throughout creation. The green blade rises, and all creation greets the resurrection dawn. Preserve vineyards, orchards, farms and ranches, and those who tend to them. Feed us with the fruits of creation.

A brief silence.

A You anointed your Son with the Holy Spirit and with power. Encourage us by his example in our ministries of healing, care, and outreach. We pray for all who are sick or hospitalized and for all health care workers who care for them.

A brief silence.

A We pray for peace in all the world, especially in war-torn areas of Ukraine. Bring an end to war and the destruction of lives and your creation. We also lift up to you those recently affected by natural disasters.

A brief silence.

A We pray for all those in need of healing and whose needs are diverse and known to you including:
Beverly Decker; Donald Rodgers; Nicole Roybal; Bernice Stancik; those on our Prayer Team's list; and those we name in our hearts before you.

A brief silence.

A We pray for all those battling cancer that they may know comfort and strength. *(Pause for those we are praying for.)*
Nina Naumann; GayLynn Willms Burk; Carl Norton; Barbara Farley; Laura Harris; Todd Foster; Cher Marino; Cindy Tanner; Joe Reck; Melinda Rodiek; Melda Coleman; Donna Culton; Nancy Hartmann; Lydia Rojas; Catherine Poppe; Larry Stolar; Vivian Fortenberry; Rick Davis; Darryl Stancik; Jerry Ordner; Michael Yancey; Bubba Bencal; Al Gene Canik; Jane Venghaus Taylor; George Wright; Sandy Mosley; Charlene Tesch; Jeffrey McDaniel; Karen Bailiff; Julian Divin; Nancy Biers; Angie Beggs; Pam Potter; Charlie Hammock; Brad Bryson; Lynette Frnka; Riana Jamison; Jenna Escamilla; Margaret Ortiz; Keith Korth; Jodi Sebesta; Cathy Siglow; Paul Casinger; Fran Gillett; DeQuincy Lister; Angela Mazoch; Lily Presswood; Denise Lange; Doug Mason; Dr. Tom Hancher; Joe Berry; Gracie Brune; Margaret Rogers; Leonard Kahlden; Curtis Wallin; Megan Burch; Lisa Grazier; Phyllis Behrend; Jessica Mauchlen; Donna Tiner; Libby Divin; Diane Brooks; Bob Loy; Stanley King; Monty Gillett; Dawn Foster; Edward Halcolm; Amber Smith Kutach; Louis Camacho; Melvin Schobel; Janet Greene; Sabrina Galindo; Debbie Grimes; Horst Traub; Margie Fisk; Preston Carter; Penny Miller; Carl Hahn; Megan Cain; Amanda Fuchs; Cyndi Wallace; Karen Broussard; Donna Young; Sharon Heimann; and Brenda Baker.

A We pray for all expectant mothers, and especially for:
Magen Schindler Altieri; Katie Pagel Walcik; Kelsey Kethan McNeely; Montana Appelt; Dina Anton de Espinoza; Olivia Leyendecker; Daya Latiolais; and Cassidy Zajicek Parks that they have healthy terms and deliveries, and if not, may they find comfort and peace.

A brief silence.

A We pray for all those who reside in care facilities and the homebound that they receive your caring and compassion. *(Pause for those we are praying for.)*
Robert Eaton; Linda Frank; Helen Hammack; Joey Denby; Edwin Oevermann; Paul Minar, Sr.; Adrian Fritsch; Doug Hill; John Zwiegel; Robert Saunders; Coy Dell Schindler; Barbara McMath; Linda Munos Rodgers; Madeline Menke; Doris Horndt; Helen Perrard; Delores Purcell; Jane Booker; Pat Brasher; Curtis Berger; Dolores Hoelscher; Jesse Grabow; Ronnie Rogers; Joyce Dehmer; Donna Dehmer; Carolyn Renz; and Rita Noska.

A We pray for all law enforcement officers, fire fighters, first responders, healthcare workers, 9-1-1 dispatchers, and active duty military personnel that they are protected and kept safe. *(Pause for those we are praying for.)*
Law enforcement officers: Todd Jacobs; Troy Neisner; Jacob Gorman; Nancy Gorman; Johnny Kovar; Abigail Weido; Dustin Lattimore; Luke Kanz; Bruno Flores; Zane Weido; Josh Jones; as well as Donnie Templeton and Jason Templeton who are also fire fighters. For all fire fighters, first responders, healthcare workers and 9-1-1 dispatchers, especially Brent Gorman, Sr.; Brent Gorman, Jr.; Reid Brasher; Dusty Dittmar; John Maertz; Ron Luedke; Pastor Alan Kethan; Kristi Weyand; Eric Weyand; Bradley Berger; Jon Berger; James Chollett; Edward Thraen, Jr.; Garrett Flores; Kyle Burris; Dylan Walcik; Randy Wendt; Travis Neuendorff; Brenda Henkes; and Jan Willette, as well as those active duty military members including Brian Anderson; Michael Graham; Bryan Kubena; Kyle Appelt; Montana Appelt; Douglas Neuendorff; Scott Cherniss; Kameron Page; Ryan Neisner; Anthony D'Angelo; Dalton Kapel; Kindra Dawson; William Phillips; and Kevin Gonzalez.

A We pray for the church throughout the world. May we all proclaim the good news of your love effectively. We ask, especially, that you would bless the ministry of our sister congregations Cristo Rey and Iglesia Cristiana Camino de Santidad in Peru, all Missionaries, especially St. Paul's supported missionary, Dina Anton de Espinoza, and our companion synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic.

A brief silence.

A As you have raised Jesus from the dead, you show us your resurrection promise. With your holy ones who have sung your praise, free us from fear and empower us to go and tell the good news.

A brief silence.

A Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C Amen.

*** PEACE**

P As Jesus shared peace, let us also share His peace with one another. *(Share the "Peace of the Lord" with your neighbors.)*

(We will be collecting offerings before and after worship each week. This includes Power of One dollars.)

OFFERING and POWER OF ONE

“Power of One” is a ministry sponsored by your Stewardship Team. We are asking each and every one of our members to give \$1.00 above what your normal giving would be. We are asking each member to place this \$1.00 bill or change in the offering plate each week. The team is also inviting all children to participate to develop the habit of giving as part of their worship experience. Parents, a penny, nickel, dime, quarter, or dollar bill, any of these will do to help your children develop a habit of giving. These “Power of One” dollars will be used to support local ministries and ministries abroad. The purpose of this ministry is to demonstrate that something as small as one dollar can be used to make a difference in the lives of others.

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

P Merciful Father,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*** REMEMBERING JESUS' WORDS, PROMISES, AND COMMANDS**

*** LORD'S PRAYER**

P Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to sing.

**C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

*** INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P Come and receive the resurrected Christ.

C Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION (Continuous with Individual Cups)

{Distribution will be continuous. All are welcome for communion. Please come down the center aisle starting from the front. Follow directions of the ushers, coming up one side at a time. Pastor will hand you the bread. If you wish to have a gluten-free wafer, please tell Pastor “Gluten-free, please.” Afterward, you will choose either wine or white grape juice from the individual cups in the tray – white grape juice in the center with wine surrounding. Place the empty cups in the baskets located off to the side. Although communion is continuous, you are welcome to kneel at the rail in prayer after receiving communion. Please return to your seat by the side aisles.}

*** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

*** BLESSING**

P The God of all, who raised ☩ Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

*** CLOSING SONG: GLORIOUS DAY**

**I was buried beneath my shame. Who could carry that kind of weight?
It was my tomb. . . 'til I met You.
I was breathing but not alive. All my failures I tried to hide.
It was my tomb. . . 'til I met You.**

**You called my name. . . and I ran out of that grave!
Out of the darkness. . . into Your glorious day.
You called my name. . . and I ran out of that grave!
Out of the darkness. . . into Your glorious day.**

**Now Your mercy has saved my soul.
Now Your freedom is all I know.
The old made new. . . Je-sus when I met You.**

**When You called my name. . . and I ran out of that grave!
Out of the darkness. . . into Your glorious day.
You called my name. . . and I ran out of that grave!
Out of the darkness. . . into Your glorious day.**

BRIDGE:

**I needed rescue, my sin was heavy. But chains break at the weight of Your glory.
I needed shelter, I was an orphan. Now You call me a citizen of Heaven.
When I was broken, You were my healing. Now Your love is the air that I'm breathing.
I have a future, my eyes are o-pen. . . 'cuz when You called my name. . .**

***I ran out of that grave!*
Out of the darkness. . . into Your glorious day.
You called my name. . . and I ran out of that grave!
Out of the darkness. . . into Your glorious day.**

CCLI Song # 7081388 Words and Music by Jason Ingram, Johnathan Smith, Kristian Stanfill, and Sean Curran.
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* **DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

C Thanks be to God, and we will.

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USHERS: Terri Brasher; Fay & Thomas Ulbricht

LAY READER: Terri Brasher

STREAMING: Mike Maas

ALTAR GUILD: Laura Weido and Terri Brasher

ACOLYTE: Berkley Anderson

POWER POINT: Dinah Jacobs

WELCOME: Christ is risen! Alleluia! Welcome, one and all, as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection — and ours.

COLLECTION OF OFFERING: Offering for the worship services is collected before and after worship. Offering bowls are placed in the back entrance and inside the side sanctuary door for you to place your offering in. This includes "Power of One" dollars.

Amount needed for average weekly budgeted expenses: \$8,405.00

Attendance: April 1 & 2, 2023 – 206

Contributions: April 1 & 2 – \$11,062.01

Power of One: April 1 & 2, 2023 – \$45.00

Building Fund: April 1 & 2 – \$708.23

Thank you to those who contributed to last week's offerings. Loving God/Loving Neighbor.

ATTENTION: *Names on the prayer list in the bulletin will be printed for 2 weeks. After 2 weeks, the names will be removed from the bulletin unless the church office has been notified to keep them.*

► **Children's Activity Bags** are available for use by our young members and guests! You can find them on the coat hooks in the coat area of the narthex. After worship, **please place the used activity bags and their contents in the receptacle in the narthex.**

Thank you! ☺

** **Thank you** for wearing your name tag! If you would like a magnet version of the name tag instead of the alligator clip, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex, and your Evangelism Team will convert it over. **

Attendance Pads Reminders: Thank you to everyone for doing such a good job signing the attendance pads each week when you attend worship! Our records are more accurate when you sign the attendance pads. Here are a couple of things that will help get our records even more accurate and up-to-date: **1) When signing in, please write *everyone* in your family who is attending worship.** When you write "John Doe Family", we do not know how many people that is and we don't know who exactly attended worship. Was it John, Sue and Sally Doe, or the whole family of John, Sue, Jim, Tom and Sally Doe? **2) Please include your address and phone number.** This is helpful especially when we have guests signing in. When they see the members writing addresses and phone numbers, guests are more likely to do the same. We like to welcome our guests by sending them a card after their visit. That is hard to do when we do not have contact information. It is also a way for us to keep up with our members when they have a change of address or phone number. Thank you for taking the time to do these items. Our staff and volunteers who take care of the personal records and oversee attendance records greatly appreciate your help.

★ **NOTICE!!** The **Women of JOY Bible Study Group** is ***not*** meeting during the month of April.

There are lots of events and activities taking place this month. The group will begin meeting again in May. Watch upcoming bulletins and newsletter for more details. For more information about Women of JOY, please contact Gerri Hackfeld at 979-732-4711. ★

Sr. Explorers Learn How to Make Knives: On **Thursday, April 13, 2023**, we will be traveling to Phenix Knives/The Blacksmith Shop in Bellville, Texas. **We will depart at 8:30 AM and return around 1:00 PM.** We will have the full tour of the blacksmith shop where Phenix Knives are made. They will show us the forges and tools of the trade and how they are used by these craftsmen as they also demonstrate knife making. A very interesting and educational hour with very little walking accompanied by many benches. Also, time for browsing and shopping before heading to the Texas Star Cafe for lunch. **Cost of the tour is \$15.** This tour has a maximum of 25 capacity. Please call Kevin Page at 979-732-0845 with any questions, and **sign the sign-up sheet in the narthex (foyer) by Sunday, April 9, 2023.**

Sr. Explorers Save the Dates: **1) Thursday, May 11, 2023:** BeeWeavers of Navasota tour with Bee Expert Chat, honey tasting and private hive tour. **2) Thursday, June 22, 2023:** Movie Day and Lunch at St. Paul – "The Jesus Revolution".

WESTERN CLUSTER SPRING GATHERING: Let's get together again now that Covid is behind us. The Gathering will be **Saturday, April 22, 2023** at **St. Paul Lutheran Church of Shelby**, 6814 Skull Creek Rd., Fayetteville, Texas. *(Use Fayetteville for nav, church is in Shelby).* With this Gathering, we will not have a formal program. Rather, we want to emphasize getting together to re-energize and catch up on what is going on throughout our Cluster. We will have **brunch, beginning at 8:30 AM**, and socializing along with an abbreviated business meeting. Let's get things rolling again and share what our individual units have been doing and suggestions for future gatherings. All women of the ELCA



are invited! Please RSVP by Saturday, April 15, 2023 to Betty Huebner at 979-277-5303 (call or text) or Lana Aschenbeck at ланаaschenbeck@gmail.com.



Wharton County Junior College Colorado County Senior Citizen Program is hosting a stuffed baked potato **fundraiser Wednesday, April 19, 2023 from 11:00 AM-2:00 PM**. The meal includes one baked potato with chopped beef, shredded cheese, sour cream, chives and butter. Cost is \$12.00 per meal. Tickets are pre-sale only and can be purchased by calling 979-532-6430. The location for the drive-thru / to-go orders only meal will be **Noah's Ark Coffee House** located at 816 Wallace Street, Columbus, Texas. Your purchase will help provide meals and services to local senior citizens.

♦ **Lutherhill Serve Day:** St. Paul Lutheran Church's day to serve will be **Saturday, April 22, 2023** from 8:30 AM-2:30 PM. Adults and youth are invited to come help. Mike Hackfeld will be trimming trees, and we will help clear them away as well as help with clearing of worship sites. Lunch will be served. Please sign up in the narthex or contact Stephanie to sign up by Friday, April 21, 2023. Stephanie will also drive the van for anyone that would like to ride along. We will leave at 8:00 AM from the church.



Make plans for St. Paul's Blood Drive on **Sunday, April 23, 2023** from **8:00 AM-12:30 PM** in The Lighthouse! Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center will be back. All successful donors will receive a free t-shirt! Make your appointment online at CommitForLife.org and use **sponsor code P732**. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (979-820-8793 or at mzschielack@gmail.com). Also, if anyone is interested and willing to help with this Outreach Ministry, please let me know. Any help is greatly appreciated! Thank you, and God Bless! – *Melinda Zajicek*



Attention all graduates!! If you or a family member (child, grandchild) is graduating from high school, college or trade school, please contact Stephanie or the church office for a graduation form to fill out. The form asks for information about the graduate – name, place graduating from, degree, activities, awards, future goals, etc. We would like to congratulate you and share your wonderful accomplishments in the upcoming newsletter! Once again, please contact Stephanie or the church office for a form, and **return the completed form as soon as possible**. Thank you!

Crawfish Boil and Dessert Auction: We are excited to bring back our Annual Crawfish Boil and Silent Dessert Auction. It will be **Sunday, May 7, 2023 at 12:15 PM in the Lighthouse**. **Tickets are \$30 each for crawfish, potatoes and corn.** Tickets for hamburger/hot dog & chips are \$9 each. Tea, water and lemonade will be served. **All tickets** (crawfish and hamburger/hot dog) **are dine-in ONLY**. Tickets may be purchased before worship starting Sunday, April 16, 2023 or from the church office. If you would like to send a dessert for the silent auction, please bring it to the Lighthouse that morning (May 7). Funds support the confirmation youth attending

summer camp at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp in Colorado and the high school youth summer retreat. Thank you for your support!



CRAFTING CAMP: Students that enjoy making art and crafting are invited to this summer's Crafting Camp. Children who have completed the 2nd grade up to 8th grade are invited to come craft on **Thursdays starting June 1 to July 6, 2023 from 1:00-2:30 PM** in the Lighthouse. Led by Debbie Eaton and her crew, students will have the opportunity to make a different craft each week. *Space is limited to 10 students, and the cost is \$10 per student, which will cover the cost of their crafting supplies.* Register online at form.jotform.com/spolasek21/craftcamp or contact Stephanie Polasek at 979-732-1858. **For the**

Crafting Camp, we are in need of the following items:

- *Cardboard tubes from paper towels and toilet paper*
- *Crayons – broken pieces are great! (no matter the size)*

Items may be dropped off in the church office between now and the end of May. If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Eaton at 512-757-2251. Thank you!

Stellar VBS!! Mark your calendars for “Stellar” VBS! Join us at Vacation Bible School **July 10-14, 2023** as kids go on a cosmic quest and have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world! A meal will be served 5:30-6:00 PM, and VBS will be held 6:00-8:30 PM. VBS is open to children in preschool up to students who have completed 5th grade. Registration is free, however, t-shirts will be available to purchase for \$8 each. *Space is limited so register early!* Parents may register their students online by visiting vbspro.events/p/spfu2023. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie at 979-732-1858 or by email at stephaniepolasek@yahoo.com.

Be a Vacation Bible School Volunteer!! VBS is a wonderful way to connect with the youth and to share how God has worked in your life. Sharing your love for Christ with the younger generation can be a humbling and rewarding experience and can impact the youth in so many ways. Last year we hit our capacity of 100 students! This year we have increased our capacity to 125 students, but, in order to accomplish this, more volunteers are needed. We all have gifts to give no matter what age, and we invite you to join our team. You may register online by visiting vbspro.events/p/spfu2023. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie at 979-732-1858 or by email at stephaniepolasek@yahoo.com.

♣ **Day Camp at Lutherhill!** Youth completing K-5th grade are invited to experience a week at camp without the over-night stay during the week of **July 30-August 4, 2023**. Camp starts each day at 8:00 AM and will end at 5:15 PM. Stephanie Polasek will shuttle youth each day to and from camp. We will leave the church at 7:20 AM and will return at 5:50 PM. **Cost is \$195 for the week**. Register online at lutherhill.org and then contact Stephanie at 979-732-1858 for transportation. It's always a great time for the kiddos!



Habitat for Humanity: The Outreach Team is in search of a Team Leader to represent St. Paul Lutheran Church for Habitat for Humanity. The churches in our community coordinate and build a couple of houses a year for our neighbors in need. ***We need someone to represent St. Paul and be the liaison between Habitat for Humanity and our congregation.*** You do not have to build the house yourself, but help coordinate our efforts. Please let Kevin Page know (979-732-0845) if you are interested or have any questions. Thank you, and thank you, God, for our most generous church family!

♥ ***Grief Support Group:*** Are you experiencing grief from the loss of a loved one, loss of a job, loss of friend who has moved? The Grief Support Group is a place to share and discuss these issues with other individuals. The group meets the **third Thursday of each month from 5:30-6:30 PM in the church library.** For questions or more information, contact Peggy Geisler at 979-732-0350.

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Mon., April 10 – 9:30 AM – Staff Meeting
Tues., April 11 – 9:00 AM-12:00 PM – Quilters (Lighthouse)
 10:30 AM – Pastor Alan to TLC
 12:00 PM – Noon Bible Study (library)
 5:30 PM – Stewardship Team (library)
Wed., April 12 – ***Camp Forms are Due!!***
 9:00 AM – CLA Chapel
 10:00 AM – Deacon Sandye to Columbus Oaks
 2:00 PM – Deacon Sandye to The Oaks
 4:30 PM – Confirmation (2nd yr.)
 5:00 PM – Meal
 5:30 PM – BLAST, Confirmation (1st yr.), Adult Class & HS
Thurs., April 13 – 8:30 AM-1:00 PM – SR. Explorers to Phenix Knives (Bellville)
 10:00-11:30 AM – Manna for Moms (Lighthouse)
 5:00 PM – Worship Team (library)
 6:00 PM – Property Team (choir room)
 6:30 PM – Peru Team (library)
Fri., April 14 – 10:30 AM – Adult Bible Study (library)
Sat., April 15 – 7:00 PM – Holy Communion Worship
Next Sun., April 16 – 9:00 AM – Holy Communion Worship
 10:00 AM – Adult Sunday School and Confirmation
 11:05 AM – Holy Communion Contemporary Worship

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Sunday, April 9, 2023 Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, died 1945
 Bonhoeffer was a German theologian who wrote profoundly, yet in an accessible manner. In the Second World War, he became a leader of the Confessing Church in Germany that resisted the Nazi movement. Linked to a plot to kill Hitler, he was hanged shortly before the end of the war.

Monday, April 10, 2023 Mikael Agricola, Bishop of Turku, died 1557

Consecrated bishop of Turku, Finland, without the approval of the pope, Agricola began a reform along Lutheran lines. In only three years, he translated the New Testament and worship texts into Finnish, in the process establishing the rules of Finnish writing that are still used today.

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OTHER READINGS: Acts 10:34-43

Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, "receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The reading begins:

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

PSALM: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God's mercy endures forever. ²Let Israel now declare, "God's mercy endures forever." ¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation. ¹⁵Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly! ¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted! The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!" ¹⁷I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD. ¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death. ¹⁹Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD. ²⁰"This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter." ²¹I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation. ²²The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. ²³By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes. ²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

OTHER READINGS: Colossians 3:1-4

Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.

The reading begins:

¹If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, ³for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

SERVICE OVERVIEW: HIDDEN WITH CHRIST

Easter turns the world upside down. It defies our expectations with hiddenness and bluntness: Mary does not recognize the resurrected Jesus. The good news is heralded by an earthquake and terrifying angels and is brought to the women of the church first, rather than to the male disciples. The radical reversals prophesied in scripture and revealed in Christ's life and ministry culminate in the good news we proclaim today: Christ, through death, has triumphed over death. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:

We have died, and our life is hidden with Christ in God. This part of the resurrection story may be strange and unsettling, but necessary. God is stirring us to transformation in every moment. Welcome to worship! Can you let go? Will you allow yourself to be broken open like a seed to die so that new life might thrive?

Easter morning proclaims the power of God to bring new life out of death. Push back against hopelessness and despair. Invite the power of Christ's resurrection to bring you to life! The resurrection can bring a myriad of emotions related to personal experiences. For some, the resurrection of Jesus brings greater joy and reason for hope. For others, it can heighten awareness of the tension between God's kingdom and what we see in the world today. Hear the call to to faithfully lament the letting go. As you embody Christ's resurrection in the present, celebrate it with great joy. In your desire to be hidden in Christ's abundant life, acknowledge your suffering as Christ's resurrection emerges. Dietrich Bonhoeffer reminds us that Christ did not come into the world that we might understand him, *but that we might cling to him*. Let yourself be swept away by him into the immense event of the resurrection.

Every time we worship, it is a celebration of the resurrection and includes references to today's readings. "On the third day he rose again," "He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again," "Christ has died, Christ is risen." When we receive the dismissal, it is as if we are the women seeing the risen Christ: "Go in peace. Share the good news."

KID STUDY:

Eggs, eggs... everywhere! The Easter egg is a reminder of Jesus. The egg looks closed up, but when we break it open we find good food to eat. When we look at the tomb of Jesus, it looks closed up, but God broke it open and gave us a new life of Christ, offering us food in Jesus' body and blood. Jesus is our food – our daily bread that comforts, helps, and supports us. So as Christians, we decorate eggs to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION:

If you would learn of God the Father, listen to this word. When it is too dark for you to see, seek Christ, for he is the light. Would you know by whom the world was made and all things are sustained? Believe in him, for he is the arm and right hand. Are you afraid of this or that? Remember that on all occasions he will stand by your side like an angel. If you do not know the way of salvation, look for Christ, for he is the road for souls. If it is truth that you want, listen to him, for he is the truth. If you are afraid that your body is failing and have a dread of death, remember that he is the resurrection, and can raise up what has fallen. - Nicetas [Nicetas, in A Treasury of Early Christianity, ed. Anne Fremantle (NY: Viking, 1953), 401-403.]

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Next Week's Theme (April 15 & 16): In believing you will have life in Jesus' name

Next Week's Scriptures (April 15 & 16):

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

"Christ's resurrection: the fulfillment of God's promise to David."

Psalm: Psalm 16

"In your presence there is fullness of joy." (Ps. 16:11)

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

"New birth to a living hope through the resurrection."

Gospel: John 20:19-31

"Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ."

EASTER LILIES PLACED IN MEMORY OF:



Mr. & Mrs. Milroy Venghaus by: Kenny & JoAnn Venghaus

Clemens & Irene Noska by: Eddie & Debbie Hernandez Family

EASTER LILIES PLACED IN HONOR OF:



Our Children and Grandchildren by: Kenny & JoAnn Venghaus

Brian, Mark & Faith Ellen by: Brian Lighthill and Carol Lighthill

Our Great-Grandchildren – Liam, Malachi, Eleanor, Nathaniel & Oliver

Lattimore; Emlyn & Charlotte Lattimore; Judah & Felicity Kanz; and Adrianna & James

Hamilton by: Adrian & Virginia Fritsch

Our children Joyce, Kenneth, Winfield and Sandy by: Eugene & Chris Schobel

MONETARY DONATIONS FOR EASTER CROSS IN MEMORY OF:

Emma & Arthur Helweg and Hazel & George Kopecky, Sr. by: The George Kopecky, Jr. Family

Don Morrison by: Charlene Morrison

Raymond & Lillie Krueger and Leo & Regina Jasek by: Woodrow & Beatrice Jasek

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Erika O'rion Dittmar and Col. Frederick Roybal by: Dwight & Christina Dittmar

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Marvin Brod by: Punk, Kristien, Jordan, Christie, Dylan and Clayton Brod

Thurman & Marjorie Brune; Johnnie & Ellen Holub; and Laura & Herman Brune, Jr. by: John, Elena & Clayton Holub

Loved Ones by: Gene & Deanie Chollett

Herbert & Edith Brannon; Mahlon Lighthill; and Gifford & Mary Lighthill by: Brian Lighthill and Carol Lighthill

Foy & Nell Page and Wendall "Grandpa" Albert by: Kevin & Wendy Page Family

Harvey Skow by: Beverly Skow

Sylvia Marburger and Bobby Marburger by: Byron & Rebecca Marburger and Cecil Marburger

Erika O'rion Dittmar by: Leon & Verna Nell Dittmar

Richard M. McCabe and Bobby & Mae Dene Zajicek by: Neal Zajicek Family

Our Parents by: Lawrence & Belle Dungen

Jake & Pauline Kalina and Carl, Sr. & Jerry Geisler by: Carl & Peggy Geisler

Elmer Ray & Eunice Wienken by: Janet Wienken & Scott

Family & Friends by: Larry Uhlig

Marcella Maertz by: R. W. Maertz

James Booker, Doris Mai, and Lucille Booker by: Jane & Dyana Booker

Bill Mitchell, Jr.; Wilbert & Aline Stolle; and Bill, Sr. & Jane Mitchell by: Carol Mitchell

Our fathers Chris Thraen and Bernard Kenjura by: Ed & Michelle Thraen

Howard & Eula Besch by: Jamie, Whitney & Jameson Ripper

Former Members of St. Paul's Morning Circle by: St. Paul Lutheran Church Morning Circle

Alvin & Hilda Horndt and Edmund & Alvina Otto by: Melvin & Mary Otto

Lester & Olga Foster and William & Wilma Nelson by: Lester Gene & Carolyn Foster

John W. Brasher, Alma Larmer and Dale & Dorcie Strauss by: John & Terri Brasher

Quinton Kahlden by: Elsie Kahlden and family

Diane's Parents Bill & Lois Thaler and Tom's Parents Jack & Gladys Rau by: Tom & Diane Rau

Barney & Margie Kuhn and Carl & Bea Johnson by: David & Sharon Johnson



MONETARY DONATIONS FOR EASTER CROSS IN HONOR OF:

Linda Morrison & Paul Mikula by: Charlene Morrison

Karen Albert Flores by: Kevin & Wendy Page Family

Lou McCabe by: Neal Zajicek Family

Our Children, Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren by: Lawrence & Belle Dungen

Kamden Dimas, Luke Wienken and Emersyn Johnson by: Janet Wienken & Scott

Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren by: Joe & Arlene Trojacek

Our Children and Grandchildren by: Eddie & Debbie Hernandez

The members of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Columbus by: Eugene & Chris Schobel



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