

Address Service Requested

St. Paul Lutheran – April Newsletter
Volume 78, No.4



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SANFORD, MI 48657

2045 Lynn Road
Sanford, Michigan 48657

www.stpaulsanford.org

<https://www.facebook.com/stpaullutheransanford>

Church Office: 989.687.2824

Church Office: stpaul Lutheran@tds.net

Office Hours: Tue, Wed, & Thur (4:30pm-6:30pm)

April 4th Elder's Meeting 6pm
April 6th Easter Concert 4pm
April 14th Council Meeting @11am
April 13th Youth Movie Night 6pm
April 18th Trustee Meeting 6pm
April 25th Youth Board Meeting 6pm

St. Paul Lutheran Church (LCMS)
Sanford, Michigan



St. Paul provides a spiritual home where we can grow in our faith, live in God's love and reach out to others with the good news of Christ.

ST PAUL LUTHERAN NEWSLETTER



April 2024

www.stpaulsanford.org

Volume 78 No.4

The Church Is One

Pastor Christopher P. Vossler

“I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.” (John 10:14-16)

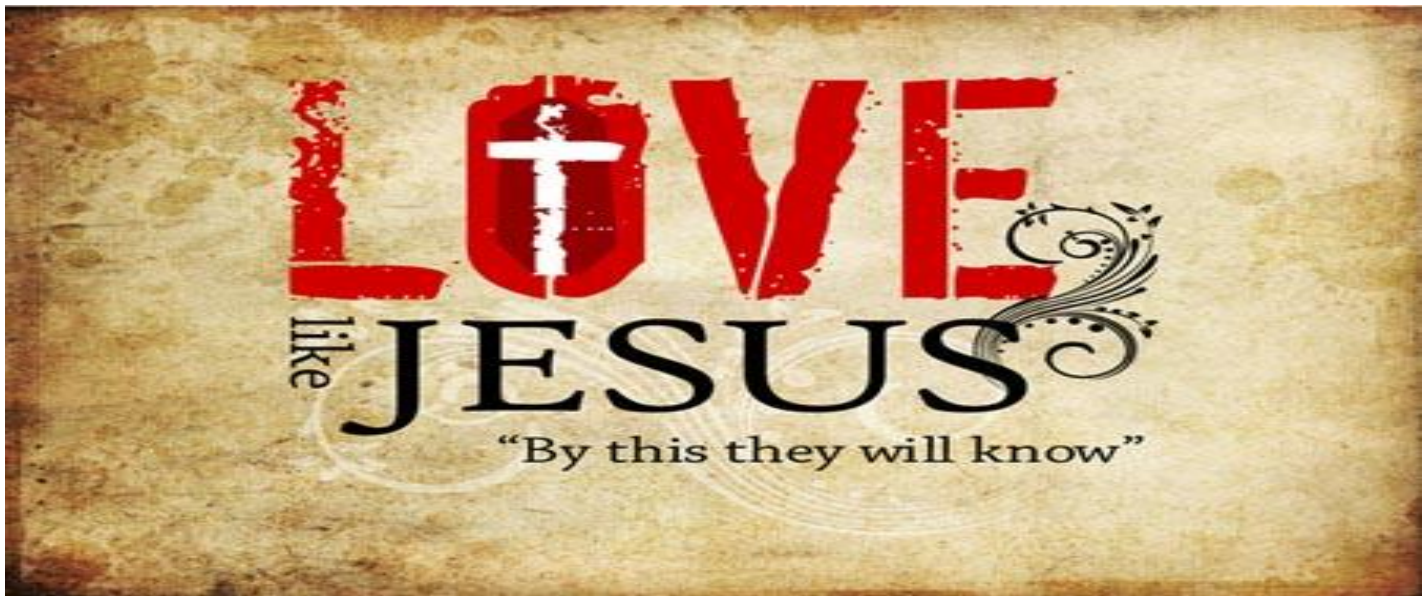
As Lutherans, one temptation to which we have become prone is the sin of insularity. We look at ourselves and those who believe the same as us, and we can assume that the Church *only* consists of us – of confessional Lutherans, of Missouri Synod Lutherans, or even just of members of St. Paul Lutheran Church. And yet, the Church of God is so much larger and more expansive than anything we could possibly conceive. All of those who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior from sin, death, and the devil. All of those who have put their trust in Jesus. All of them are our brothers and sisters in Christ!

And yet, the Church of Christ – one in Christ though it remains – has become fractured and fragmented. Human sin has broken the family of God. Different beliefs about God’s Word, about the Sacraments, about the office of the pastor, and so much more have led to infighting and dissention within the Body of Christ. The oneness of the Church has been stained. When we

pray for the Church of God, we pray that the unity of the Church in Heaven might come to be reflected on earth – not by sweeping these differences under the rug but by gathering together around God’s Word and submitting to God’s authority.

So, then, to ask a good Lutheran question: “What does this mean?” What does it mean for the Church to be one yet fractured?

In short, it means that we love and pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ, that God’s Word would continue to be preached in purity and truth. That we pray for the time when all these divisions will cease and the Church’s oneness in heaven will be reflected by her oneness on earth. And that we seek to work together with our fellow believers in the ways that we can. Not compromising what we believe, but seeking to further God’s work on earth through acts of mercy and charity. Trusting that the Lord of the Church continues to rule and govern His Church on earth and will bring it to Himself in Heaven.





St. Paul Stephen Ministry Corner

By: Marilyn Bowen

“Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ”
(Galatians 6:2, NRSV)

We are all broken people, everyone walking through life here on earth faces some trouble or turmoil at some point. Death, illness, breakups, financial trouble, loneliness...some form of emotional turmoil will find us at some point. *“Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”*-Matthew 11:28. Come take a walk with Jesus and he will calm your soul.

Stephen Ministers are trained to help people on this walk. We listen, pray, sing, talk, or just be present with you. We offer comfort and emotional support to help deal with trouble. Our ministry encompasses all Christ based religion, bringing Christ’s healing love to every friend, relative, co-worker or neighbor that needs help going through a rough patch. *““Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ”* -Galatians 6:2, NRSV.

We worship together because God instructs us to. Across the world we gather together to worship and hear God’s word in our own language and our own communities. This helps us stay connected to Jesus and the strength He offers us.

Let us, as Stephen Ministers, help you with your walk, together we will face the fears you have and, with Jesus help, calm your soul. You are not alone.

Confidentiality is the main foundation of The Stephen Ministry and is stressed throughout the program. If you would like to contact a Stephen Minister, or are interested in becoming a part of that ministry, please contact Michelle DeCoe or pastor. Request for assistance cards are located in the pews and may be placed in the lock box across from the church mailboxes and restrooms downstairs.

“In the resurrection we find solace in our mourning, in our uncertainty, and in our troubles. Our longing for escape finds its hope in the resurrection of Christ. It is God’s approval upon the redemptive work of His Son. It is the assurance that as He was raised from the dead, so shall we, and all who have ‘fallen asleep in Him’ shall be raised to life eternal.” *Pastor Robert Fleischmann, Christian Life Resources – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org* **Hurting from abortion? Word of Hope can help. Word-of-hope.org; 888-217-8679**



LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION PRAYER DAY/RALLY

Saturday, April 27, 2024

**St. Paul Lutheran Church
2045 Lynn Street, Sanford, MI 48657
8:30 am Registration
9:00 am—12:00 pm**

**Prayer Service and Meeting
Noon Lunch
Theme: Grace, Mercy, Peace**

**Gifts from the Heart needs for St. Paul’s
Blessing Bags:**

**Wipes, lotion, sunscreen, comb or brush,
toothbrush/toothpaste, dental floss, chapstick,
deodorant, shaving cream/razor**

**Please RSVP to: Sandy Hoogerhyde
(231-282-0847) or Sandyhoogerhyde@yahoo.com
Deadline for registration: April 19**

Registration is \$5.00, payable at the door

SOCIAL MEDIA

We are on the web: www.stpaulsanford.org

Social Media and Website-In a continuing effort to keep our church website current and interesting, we are going to begin posting pictures of our members engaged in the various activities held at the Church and elsewhere on google and Facebook. Children will require special permission. If you would prefer not to have any pictures of you posted, please let Linda Mitchell know.

MIDLAND COUNTY NEWSLETTER ONLINE – Subscribe here (very informative):

<https://www.co.midland.mi.us> and search Midland County Newsletter.

MICHIGAN MINUTE: Weekly E-news & Events of the Michigan District, LCMS

<http://www.michigandistrict.org/connect/publications/michiganminute>

SMART PHONE USERS: There are two free apps available for your devices that pertain to your Lutheran Beliefs? LCMS app is free and provides great information including a Daily Devotion. The other is Luther's Small Catechism app which is also free. If you have questions or would like to check it out and need assistance please contact the church office.

The Lutheran Witness is now a free digital app. Once subscribers download the free *Lutheran Witness* magazine app, each new issue automatically will be sent to their newsstands for convenient viewing. Note: While the app itself is free, you will need a paid subscription to the magazine in order to receive it via the app. If you have any questions or would like to see whether the magazine is available for your device, visit www.cph.org/witness to learn more or to download the app. You may also call Concordia Publishing House at 800-325-3040.

Lutheran Service Book - EBook Edition at enews@cph.org **OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA:**

www.facebook.com/thelcms

www.twitter.com/thelcms

www.youtube.com/thelcms

www.lcms.org/socialmedia

KITCHEN GARBAGE Bags: ALL garbage bags removed from the Kitchen **MUST** be placed in dumpster and **NOT** left outside the back kitchen door. **RECYCLING:** A large bin for recycling only has been placed outside the back kitchen door ... **THIS IS FOR RECYCLING ONLY!** We also have smaller recycling receptacles around the church which are marked with a recycling symbol.



LADIES AID

The third Wednesday of every month is set aside for our monthly meetings at 10:00am beginning in February.

New Year sewing will begin February 14th and be every Wednesday at 9am at the Sunday School.

Ladies Aid Board

Christy Martin-President / Carolyn Sutton-Vice President / Pam Kastl-Secretary / Vicki Barnard-Treasurer

Questions may be directed to: Christy Martin 817.757.9577 email CKM57@me.com or Carolyn Sutton 989.631-3953.

Men's Breakfast: 2nd Saturday of the month

Ladies' Bible Study: 4th Saturday of the Month

Game Night: 3rd Saturday of Month 7pm

LifeLight Bible Study: Tuesdays @ 7pm and Wednesday @ 1pm

Confirmation Classes: on Tuesday Nights 5-6:30pm.



Held every 3 years since 1980, the **LCMS Youth Gathering** provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God's people to be encouraged in their walk with Jesus Christ and learn about the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity.

The Gathering is more than the five days of the event. The Gathering provides young people a vision for the vastness of Christ's Church and equips them for vocational service as they continue their walk with Jesus.

We encourage our Youth to share in the once in this lifetime opportunity to learn more about God's love attending "Endure" 2025. To be held July 19-23, 2025 in New Orleans

BULLETIN / NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

If you have information you would like placed into any upcoming bulletins or newsletters, please submit to the church office via email at stpaul Lutheran@tds.net, calling 687-2824 or by placing it in the church office mailbox located between the restrooms downstairs. Don't forget to state the date(s) you'd like your information to run.

DEADLINES

Newsletters 20th (monthly)
Bulletins Wednesday's
by Noon

*Youth Movie Night- Saturday,
April 13th at 6pm featuring
"Mega-Mind"
Pizza/Popcorn/Smores for movie
discussion. Bring a friend 😊*

Interested in joining
the **Youth Ministry
Board** and focusing
on the planning of
education/activities designed for our
congregation's youth. Please let
Gerianne or Pastor know if you can
help.



For more information
about youth group,
Sunday School, youth
bible study and events,
please use the QR

code to get to the form.

Confirmation Sunday-May 5th
Confirmation Questioning-
Saturday May 4th @ 7pm and Pot
luck 6pm

Mission of the Month: *April*,
we are receiving offerings for the
Lutheran Hour Ministries. This
global media resource proclaims

the Gospel to more than 136
million people worldwide each
week, often bringing Christ to
places where no other Christian
organizations are present

“BECAUSE WE CARE”

Prayer Request: If you or someone you know
are in need of prayers please call Edna Rottiers
at 989-687-9687. **Those** with additional prayer
request please complete a prayer slip and give
to one of our Elders before the service or to
one of the Ushers during the offering. Your
prayers are important and our Lord does
promise to answer.

Pastoral Care: Please contact the Pastor
@ cell 973-303-8252, office 989-687-2209, or
email stpaulrev@tds.net. The Church Office
(989-687-2824) / cell (989 859-9300) email
stpaul Lutheran@tds.net, or Deacon Don Barnard
(989-751-7726) email: esocidnator01@gmail.com.
Or stpauldeacon@tds.net if you or anyone you
know are in need of a visit from the Pastor or
Deacon whether it's an illness, hospitalization,
nursing home or shut-in. It is important to us
that we receive these communications to plan a
call or visitation. May God's blessings be upon
you today and every day!

Our florist is, **HANNAH'S FLOWERS**, in Midland.
She will be making us a \$25 arrangement. Please
continue to return the vases back to the church to help
keep the price lower. All other florist prices were
higher. You will continue to make your flower
payment to the church. Any questions, please talk
with Carolyn. Thank you,

Carolyn 631-3953

Altar Guild representatives for April
are Carolyn Sutton (631-3953) and
Patty Billingsley.

To our families with small children: Relax!



You and your children are welcome to our worship service! Being in worship with you to observe and participate in the service will help them to learn how to behave in church – and they will learn that best by watching you worship on a regular basis! Sit anywhere in the sanctuary that you wish. The last two rows of pews are set aside for families with small children, but you don't *have* to sit there. In fact, sitting close to the front so your children can see what's happening may help them to feel more involved in the service. If they need something to keep their hands occupied, please ask one of the ushers for a copy of the children's bulletins for them to color. If for any reason you need to take your children out of the sanctuary so they can calm down, feel free to bring them into the bathroom at the back of the church. In addition, at the bottom of the stairs we have a cry room to the right, as well as the fellowship hall to the left. With the speakers in the basement, you will be able to hear the service while your child calms down. If your children don't want to sit still or be quiet through the whole service, there is absolutely nothing wrong with them: they are young and learning. The sound of children in worship is the sound of the Church's future.

Please be on the lookout for “phishing” emails and Texts that look like they were sent from Pastor. If you get an email or text asking for something from Pastor, read the from line at the top to see that it was sent from “**stpaulrev**”, **or the Pastor's phone #, or ask Pastor.** The bad guys are searching trying to scam people.

If you are interested in private

Communion...for whatever the reason. Pastor Vossler and Deacon Barnard are willing to share the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior in a private setting. Please contact at their listing for Pastoral care.

THRIVENT

Thrivent Action Team Dollars: St. Paul Members who belong to Thrivent Financial have a unique opportunity to provide financial help for a project here at St. Paul. Each Thrivent member is eligible to receive \$250 twice per year from Thrivent to contribute to a St. Paul project. Examples of projects include: parades, Wild Game Dinner, Easter Breakfast, Harvest Dinner and many others. If you are a Thrivent Member that would like to help us with Thrivent Action Team Dollars on future projects please contact the church office to be placed on a list. Your help is greatly appreciated!

CHOICE DOLLARS

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO TOOK THE TIME AND MADE A PHONE CALL TO THRIVENT FOR THE CHOICE DOLLARS. I'M ASKING EVERYONE WHO HAS A THRIVENT POLICY TO CALL, EVEN IF IN DOUBT REGARDING YOUR POLICY ELIGIBILITY. CALL 1-800-847-4836 THEN PUSH 1. THIS IS A PHONE CALL, NOT A COMPUTER GENERATED VOICE. THEY EVEN SPEAK ENGLISH AS THEY ARE BASED IN APPLETON, WISC. CALL IN JANUARY 24, APRIL 2024, JULY, OCTOBER, AND THEN AGAIN IN JANUARY 2025. THESE FUNDS ARE DIRECT DEPOSITED INTO THE CHURCH'S BANK ACCOUNT, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO HANDLE THEM. THESE ARE 2023 EARNED DOLLARS BEING GIVEN IN 2024. NEXT YEAR MAY BE MORE OR LESS DEPENDING ON THE ECONOMY.

-WILLIAM P. MITCHELL



St. Paul Coffee Mugs are available for \$5.00. If interested, please see

Linda Mitchell or Margie Dittmer

Sanford Food Pantry – Please continue your support of this very worthwhile local ministry. . There are refillable canvas bags from the Midland County Emergency Food Pantry available on the food pantry table in the fellowship hall. The bags have a suggested list of items and instructions. You may take these bags home and place the purchased items in the bag and return it to the church. The bags will be delivered to the Sanford Food Pantry the last week of the month. The empty bags will be returned to the church to be used again. Thank you for all of the items and monetary donations. *Your donations are appreciated, but please note that the Food Pantry does not accept: 1)*

weight-loss products; nor 2) food items with an expired date. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please put in the Public Relations Mailbox. Thank you for your consideration in helping those less fortunate. Please make the check payable to Sanford Food Pantry

Current needs are: Boxed Potatoes, Scalloped, Mashed, etc.

Has your contact info changed? If so, please contact the church office (687-2824) or stpaul Lutheran@tds.net and provide us with the changed information (address, phone, email or any other information).

BlackTop Project-We are accepting donations for the parking lot work needing to be done. Please make your donation out to the church and note that the amount should be directed to parking lot.

Social Media and Website-In a continuing effort to keep our church website current and interesting, we are going to begin posting pictures of our members engaged in the various activities held at the Church and elsewhere on google and Facebook. Children will require special permission. If you would prefer not to have any pictures of you posted, please let Linda Mitchell know.

Prayer Request: *If you or someone you*

know are in need of prayers please call or email Edna Rottiers at 989-687-9687 / hughrottiers@gmail.com . Those with additional prayer request please complete a prayer slip and give to one of our Elders before the service or to one of the Ushers during the offering. Your prayers are important and our Lord does promise to answer

Wanted: volunteers to help with Youth Activities



Vacation Bible School is coming up on June 17th - 21st, and we are very excited for this opportunity to bless the youth of our congregation and community! Much of the ground work has already been accomplished, but there is more to be done over the coming months. The Youth Ministry Board is looking for volunteers to help with youth activities (including joining the Youth Ministry Board). If you are willing to serve in this valuable role, please talk to Andrea McDonald or Pastor Vossler.

Thank You!
♡

Thank you to all the Youth, Youth board, and contributors for all the work to put on Easter Breakfast 😊

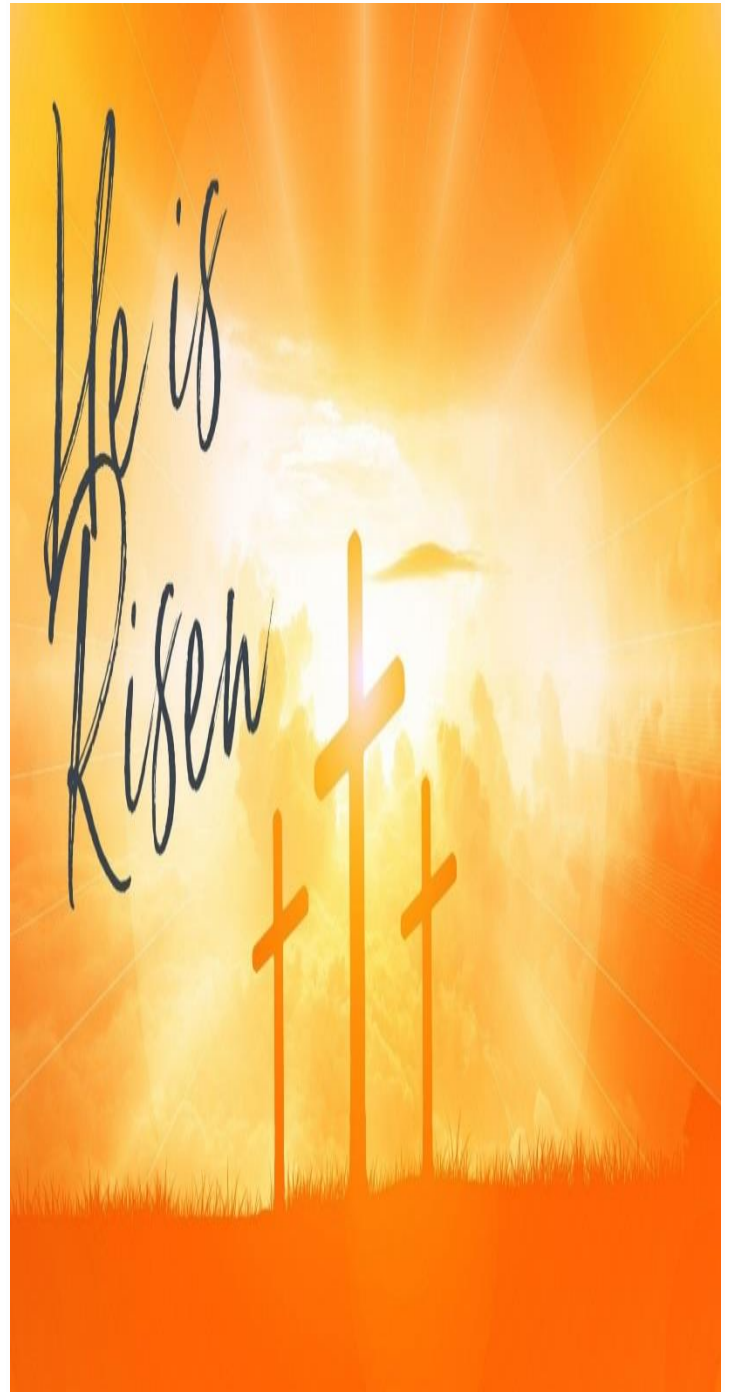
Confirmation will take place on **May 5**, with **Confirmation Questioning** on **May 4** at 7 PM. Everyone in the congregation is invited to come for the Confirmation Questioning to hear the students share what they have learned and what they believe. We will have a potluck before the Questioning, starting at 6:00.

Fellowship-Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship this morning for refreshments and conversation! Refreshments are provided each Sunday by members of the congregation. If you would like to provide snacks for fellowship, please sign up on the clipboard by the kitchen.

Stewardship Month – May Financial Peace University

Have you ever asked yourself how you can become a better steward of all the resources and abilities that God has given you? If so, you're not alone. In May, we will look at all aspects of our lives as stewards of God's gifts to us. All of our Bible Studies, all of our worship services, will highlight specific areas of Stewardship and how our role as Steward (or "manager") impacts our whole Christian life. Starting with Confirmation **Sunday**, when we usher five newly-confirmed members into the next step of the Christian life.

Financial Peace University. SIGN UP on the bulletin board downstairs to reserve your spot. Building off of Stewardship Month, join us this summer for According to a study by the Ramsey Solutions research team, 40% of Americans say their financial situation has caused them to lose sleep in the past month. If that's you, it's time to make a change. Take the first step and take control of your finances by signing up for our FPU class: <https://www.fpu.com/C3C816>. Class (and better sleep) starts on **Tuesday, June 4, 2024**. Ready? Let's do this.



April Volunteer Schedule

	7-Apr	14-Apr	21-Apr	28-Apr	5-May
ACOLYTES	Jackson & Bradyn	Garrett & Jeffrey	Madison & Sam	Natalie & Jace	Jackson & Lucas
ALTAR FLOWERS	Edna Rottiers/Larry Terbush	Carolyn Sutton	Open	Open	Open
ALTAR GUILD	Patty Billingsley & Carolyn Sutton 989.631.3953				
GREETERS	Patty Billingsley	Julie VanKuiken	Marilyn Bowen	Jan & Wade O'Dell	Open
FELLOWSHIP	Open	Open	Open	Open	Confirmation Sunday
ORGANIST	Heidi Stecker	Heidi Stecker	Sara Glynn-Dishaw	Sara Glynn-Dishaw	Christine Ekkila
PROCLAIMER	Deacon Donald M. Barnard	Pastor Christopher Vossler	Pastor Christopher Vossler	Pastor Christopher Vossler	Pastor Christopher Vossler
SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF	Gerianne Barnard	Gerianne Barnard	Gerianne Barnard	Gerianne Barnard	Gerianne Barnard
USHERS	Jack Moellar & Bill Draves	Demond Shaw & Stephanie Cuyler	Demond Shaw & Stephanie Cuyler	Betty Szczepanski & Edna Rottiers	Betty Szczepanski & Edna Rottiers
ELDERS	Mark Sprenger, Bob Burnison, Deacon Donald Barnard, Deno O'Connor, Bill Mitchell, Larry Terbush & Mark Burns				

April

Birthdays/Anniversaries



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	William Mitchell Sally Putnam	Mark Doud Carol List Confirmation Class 5pm Lifelight 7pm	Mike Hulbert Ladies Aid 9am PR Board 10am Lifelight 1pm	Carl Garrison Elders Meeting 6pm	Merl Ann Farquharson Ruth Williams	Mary Brewster Skye Fitak Easter Concert 4pm
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Viola Klein Worship with Communion 9:30am Bible Study 11am	Edna & Hugh Rottiers-Annv	Confirmation Class 5pm Lifelight 7pm	Ladies Aid 9am Lifelight 1pm	Linda Mitchell Drew Wegener		Men's Breakfast 8am
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Candy Brooks Allison Sutton Worship 9:30am Council Meeting 11am	Nicolas Brand	Bob Hill II Confirmation Class 5pm Lifelight 7pm	Ladies Aid 9am Lifelight 1pm	Trustee Meeting 6pm		Game Night 7pm
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Worship with Communion 9:30am Bible Study 11am		Pearl & Jerry Wirbel- Annv Laurel Pomranky Confirmation Class 5pm Lifelight 7pm	Ladies Aid 9am Lifelight 1pm	Donna Piper Lynn Terbush Colt VanWormer Youth Board Meeting 6pm		Ladies Bible Study 9am
28	29	30				
Scott & Carla Gross- Annv Worship 9:30am Bible Study 11am						