



# St. Paul Lutheran

April 2024 NEWSLETTER

## From the Pastor:

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

"April showers bring May flowers." We often say this to remember the need for the rainy days of April. Rain brings growth and this growth grants beauty. Spring is well upon us as the warmer weather is bringing the regular seasonal rain (and yet, some snow too!). It's this expectation of growth in spring that gives much hope for the coming weather.

Easter is the season of rain in the Church. It's the season where God showers us with his grace each week as we continue celebrating the resurrection of our Lord. Easter is jubilant as we're granted the benefits of our Lord's victory on the cross and his resurrection from the tomb. Christ literally feeds us the fruit of his cross in our Lord's Supper.

But just like the flowers which we expect to see in May, we should expect some growth in faith too. We should desire to go deeper with our faith, to pour more into learning and growing closer to our Lord in this season. Growth isn't just numerical. Yes, we all would love to see more people sitting in the pews, higher numbers from the offering plate, etc.. But we can't forego the personal development that happens as well. As is written, **"But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil," Hebrews 5:14.** We all should desire to eat the solid food of faith, to dive deeper into Christ's teachings so that we may understand more of the mysteries of faith.

As we struggle through the rainy days, the learning, even the growing pains, we look ahead to the day when the flowers shall bloom. Christ's death and resurrection is central to all that we say and do because it's the rain that grants us regeneration to new life! When we allow God's word to transform us, allow God's grace to wash over us and nourish us, we get to see the beauty of the Church transformed by His Word. This Easter season is rich with the grace and mercy and love of God that has the power to transform the church and especially us into new creations in Christ! The old us has been washed away by Christ's forgiveness, the new man has risen! Alleluia!

Pastor Sorenson



## Happy Birthday!



Eldor Bethke— 4/5  
Cliff Johnson— 4/5  
Doris Liberty— 4/9  
Patricia Bronson— 4/21  
Stacie Vong— 4/26  
Randall Buss— 4/29  
Betty Johnson— 4/30

## Altar Flowers



**April 7—** Doris Liberty for her birthday

**April 14—** Luanne Rommel for her Dad's birthday

**April 21- (None)**

**April 28- (None)**

## St Paul Online:

Visit our website: [www.stpaulmadison.org](http://www.stpaulmadison.org)



Facebook— @StPaulMadisonLCMS

YouTube— St Paul Lutheran Church  
(services and sermons online)



Note: You do NOT have to have an account in order to view these pages.

## Contact us

St Paul Office— 608-244-8077  
office@stpaulmadison.org  
Pastor Sorenson (Cell) 317-690-5204  
pastorsorenson@stpaulmadison.org

### Serving in April

#### Altar Guild

Bonnie Kaschinske & Kim Sorenson

#### Tellers

Jill Hellmer & Bonnie Kaschinske

#### Ushers

#### **April 7-**

Rick Van Dusen, Ray Hellmer, & Leo Lakpa

#### **April 14-**

Jerry Meise, Jamie Meise, & Dan Dierks

#### **April 21-**

Richard Beal, Randy Buss, & Tom Niemczyk

#### **April 28-**

Rick Van Dusen, Ray Hellmer, & Leo Lakpa

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**April 14-** All Congregations Partnership Meeting

**April 21-** Leadership Team Meeting

**April 30-** Vets Connect

### **We Need You!**

The Leadership Board is soliciting candidates to serve on the Board for the term of July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026.



**I WANT YOU** 608-212-9201.

If you are interested in serving, please talk to Executive Director Linda Williamson or call/text her at

Me: Don't look at the eclipse you will literally go blind

Inner me: Just a quick peek though



### **Matching Funds Offering**

A member of our congregation has offered to make a “Matching Funds” donation of up to \$5,000. This donation is being made to inspire all of us to “match” this \$5,000 by making contributions, totaling another \$5,000, that are above and beyond our usual weekly and monthly contributions.

The “Matching Funds” campaign will run from now until Sunday May 26, 2024. Please prayerfully consider making a “Matching Funds” donation before May 26th.

#### **Update as of 3/31/2024:**

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
<b>Raised:</b>	<b>\$1,955.00</b>

Thank you to all who have contributed!

## **St Paul Financial Update**

### **GENERAL FUND INCOME AND EXPENSES**

March 2024 Actual Income	\$14,316.74
March 2024 Actual Expenses	\$16,352.19
March 2024 Net	<b>-\$2,035.45</b>

### **DEBT**

Unpaid Balance on Mortgage Loan (3/31/2024) \$161,812.83

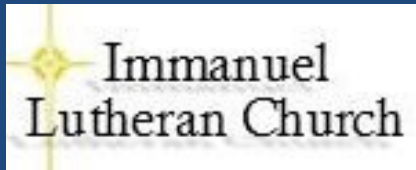
**Take Note**

Please send any items you'd like mentioned in our monthly newsletter to the office at [office@stpaulmadison.org](mailto:office@stpaulmadison.org), or please call the office at 608-244-8077.

**ALL NEWSLETTER ITEMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE LAST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH.**

Thank you for your help!

# LCMS Madison Church Partnership



## Lent Recap

We had a wonderful time with our partnership churches this Lent as we spent our midweek services together this year. We had an average of 35 people per week! Services were held at St. Paul.

For Holy Week, we joined together for Good Friday at Monona Lutheran Church. Total attendance was 53 for the service! It was wonderful to see many from St. Paul in attendance as well. A recording of the service can be found at <https://youtu.be/P2v8onplJdE>.

With such successful services, we will be looking to join together again in the near future. Be looking for more news to come following the Congregations' meeting about our next events coming up.



## All Congregations Meeting

We have all been enjoying getting to know members of our partner churches through our shared Lent and other events. However, we know that services don't always give us the chance to sit and talk as we would like. Thus, we're looking toward taking the next step in our walk together. Immanuel will be hosting an **All Partnership Congregations meeting on April 14 at 12pm**. A *light* lunch will be provided with thanks to Chick-Fil-a for donating food for our gathering.

In addition to getting to know one another better, we will be having two special guests who have played a key role in helping us build this partnership together. Rev. Nathan Meador, the Mission Executive for the South Wisconsin District (SWD) of the LCMS, will be in attendance to share with us his expertise and interest in seeing this partnership thrive. The SWD is helping in fund the cost of a counselor/advisor to aid us.



Larry Ulrich, a consultant from Generis, is who we (as a partnership) are looking to hire. Larry worked in marketing and sales management for 25 years. After this, he has sought to use his gifts and talents for the betterment of the church. Larry has aided numerous congregations (LCMS and WELS) in transformative changes to utilize their resources wisely leading to growth and stability in the church. More information concerning Larry Ulrich and Generis can be found here (<https://resources.generis.com/team/larry-ulrich>).

Come and join us and see what great things the Lord has in store!

## Upcoming Dates:

April 14 (12:00pm)- All Congregations Meeting  
(Immanuel)

May 12 (1:30pm)- Partnership Council  
(Monona)