



**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

227 N. Goodhaven Drive  
Columbia, IL 62236

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Organization  
Bulk Mailing  
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Columbia, Illinois  
Permit No. 15

**Sundays**

**8 am and 10:30 am**

**Mondays 6:30 pm**

**Worship with Us...**

**Easter Services:**

**April 2 Maundy Thursday 6:30 pm**

**April 3 Good Friday Noon & 6:30 pm**

**April 5 Easter 8 am and 10:30 am**

**The Epistle**

**April 2026**



St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
227 Goodhaven Street  
Columbia, IL 62236

618.281.4600 [stpauls-lcms.org](http://stpauls-lcms.org)  
[facebook.com/stpaulscolumbiaill](https://facebook.com/stpaulscolumbiaill)



**Sunday**      **Monday**      **Tuesday**      **Wednesday**      **Thursday**      **Friday**      **Saturday**

			<p>1 10 am Women's Bible Study Food Pantry 1:30—3 pm 6:30 pm Handbell Choir</p>	<p>2 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service</p>	<p>3 Noon Good Friday Service 6:30 pm Good Friday Service</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 <u>EASTER Sunday</u> 8 am Divine Service (Sanctuary) 9:15 am Continental Breakfast 10:30 am Divine Service</p>	<p>6 Count (Team 3) No Service</p>	<p>7 NO Men's Bible St. 9 am Quilters 5:30 pm B of Youth 6:30 pm B of Ed</p>	<p>8 10 am Women's Bible Study Food Pantry 4—5:30 pm 4 &amp; 6 pm Jr. Confirmation 6:30 pm Handbell Choir</p>	<p>9 Ladies League 11:30 am</p>	<p>10 6:30 pm Pastor Sievers Bible Study</p>	<p>11</p>
<p><b>Pastor Out of Town</b></p>						
<p>12 8 am Divine Service (Sanctuary) 9:15 am -Adult Bible Class in F. Hall SS Children &amp; Youth in SS Wing 10:30 am Divine Service</p>	<p>13 Count (Team 1) 5:15 pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm Divine Service</p>	<p>14 7:15 am Men's Bible St. 9 am Quilters 9 am Pastor Circuit Mtg in Renault 4:30 pm Trustees Mtg 6:30 pm Elders Mtg</p>	<p>15 10 am Women's Bible Study Food Pantry 1:30—3 pm 4 &amp; 6 pm Jr. Confirmation 6:30 pm Handbell Choir</p>	<p>16 6 pm Eve's Restoration Fundraising Mtg</p>	<p>17 2 pm Bria Nursing Home Worship 3:30 pm Garden Place Worship</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 8 am Divine Service (Sanctuary) 9:15 am -Adult Bible Class in F. Hall SS Children &amp; Youth in SS Wing 10:30 am Divine Service Fellowship Hall Rental—Ritter 12-4</p>	<p>20 Count (Team 2) Newsletter Articles Due For April newsletter</p>	<p>21 7:15 am Men's Bible St. 9 am Quilters 6:30 pm Church Council</p>	<p>22 10 am Women's Bible Study 4 &amp; 6 pm Jr. Confirmation 6:30 pm Handbell Choir</p>	<p>23 9 am Newsletter Folders 5:30 pm Eve's Restoration Programming Mtg PM Fellowship Hall -Decorate</p>	<p>24 Fellowship Hall Rental - Stevens 5-9 pm</p>	<p>25 LWML Spring Rally Waterloo</p>
<p>26 8 am Divine Service (Sanctuary) 9:15 am -Adult Bible Class in F. Hall SS Children &amp; Youth in SS Wing 10:30 am Divine Service 5-7 pm Chili Supper</p>	<p>27 Count (Team 3) 5:15 pm Adult Choir 6:30 pm Divine Service</p>	<p>28 7:15 am Men's Bible St. 9 am Quilters 6:30 pm Voters Mtg</p>	<p>29 10 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 Questioning of Confirmands 6:30 pm Handbell Choir</p>	<p>30</p>		



# April Birthdays and Anniversaries ♥



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 Scott Gross	6 Raina Roessler	7 Erin Schmoll	1 Connie Broadhurst	2 Cindy Schickedanz	3 Jean Kirk	4 Holly Hanewinkel Katie Stahr
12 Ethen Schwartz Paul Theiss Shari Hofstetter	13 Rockdale Dinkelmann	14 Susan Nolte	8 Gary Maske Jacob Grueninger Jason Stevens Mona Newton	9 Jan Starek Ryan Lammert	10 Mark Bierman Nicolas Monte	11 Carleigh Ottwell Donald & Patricia Gruber ♥
19 David Newton Kaytlin Scholz	20 Jeffrey & Ginger Crank Kaitlyn Grohman	21 Camille Frazer Terry Riebeling	15 Breanne Boland Kenly Ackermann	16 Alexander Magnuson Mike & Debra Roediger ♥	17 Barbara Ries Chad Phelps John & Debbie Caldwell ♥ Katelyn Williams Katie Hirsch	18 Andrew Nowak Reagan Schmoll Virginia Jeffery
26 Doug & Julie Stinemetz ♥	27 Rebecca Bradley	28 Bethany Grandt Jake Starek	22 Ezra Douglas Julie Russell Robert & Marilee Schueler ♥	23	24 Lily Dinkelmann	25 Breanna Chandler Michelle Weller
			29 Julie Greeting	30 Lillian Koenigstein Tom Dillard Sr Trevor Search		

Natalie Bredoni  
ILLUSTRATION



Pastoral Ponderings'

Our congregation is part of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, a denomination that has existed for almost 180 years. Those congregations in the LCMS accept and preach the Bible-based teachings of Martin Luther that inspired the reformation of the Christian Church in the 16th century. The teaching of Luther and the reformers can be summarized in three phrases: Grace alone, Faith alone, Scripture alone. These truths are expounded in the Book of Concord which includes confessional documents like the small and large catechisms, and the Augsburg Confession. Synod- simply means to walk together. Below are the most recent (2024) statistics on congregations, church workers, and schools in the LCMS.

**Our Synod at a Glance**

CONGREGATIONS		CHURCH WORKERS	
Member Congregations	5,767	Ordained Ministers (Active assignment)	5,548
New Church Starts*	74	Ordained Ministers (Candidates for calls)	326
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,841</b>	Teachers	4,872
Baptized members	1,674,315	Deaconesses	184
Confirmed members	1,328,392	Directors of Christian Education	533
Average weekly attendance	547,230	Other rostered workers	221
		Retired workers, including pastors	7,618

**Our Synod at a Glance**

LUTHERAN SCHOOLS	
Preschools	1,707*
Elementary Schools (K-8)	732*
High Schools	109*
International Schools	3
Colleges/Universities	6
Seminaries	2

Adult Bible Education

**Fraturdays, Once a Month: 2026**  
**EYES on Isaiah**

Our **Not-for-Couples-Only Bible Class** led by Pastor Sievers will focus on the OT book of Isaiah in 2026, meeting monthly on a convenient Friday. Learn how the Holy Spirit used Isaiah not only to predict with amazing detail our Savior's birth, death, and resurrection, but also to warn and comfort God's people. For more info or to order your \$12 study guide, call or text Pastor Sievers (314-882-2097).

**Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class: 9:15 am to 10:15**

Do join us on Sunday mornings at 9:15am as we continue our verse by verse look at the Gospel of Luke. We meet in the fellowship hall, and new people are always welcome.

**Tuesday Men's Bible Study** Meet w/ us at 7:15 am in the Narthex. All men welcome. We have been looking at the Weekly Scriptures in the Worship Service.

**Ladies Bible Study w/ Nancy**

10 to 11 am Wednesdays - SS room at end of hall  
A study on some of the women of the Bible. Call Nancy Radentz or email her for more information. 618-340-2995 [donan9@sbcglobal.net](mailto:donan9@sbcglobal.net)

**Interested in St. Paul's**

If you or someone you know is interested in St. Paul's Lutheran Church, please call Pastor Krenz at 618-363-0121. Classes are offered periodically throughout the year. This class usually runs 10-12 weeks.



**Our Mission Statement:**

To Provide Parenting Resources & Christ-Centered Spiritual Care in a Residential Setting, to Mothers Whose Children are Currently in Foster Care, Empowering Them to Rebuild & Reunite Their Families.

**DID YOU KNOW** . . . that Eve's Restoration Ministries is a start-up non-profit 501(c)(3) organization affiliated with our church, and as a charitable organization your gift is tax-deductible.

**2026 FINANCIAL GOAL**

Our goal for 2026 is \$88,000. We are **\$70,000** away! Please prayerfully consider making a monthly donation to support this important ministry.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET INVOLVED?**

There is so much good work to be done! Will you consider joining the Eve's Restoration Ministries' Committee of St. Paul's? The committee meets every other month for one hour. Please reach out to Amanda Douglas at 314-221-6700 for more information.

Together, we can empower mothers to rebuild and reunite their families!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



We're looking forward to several upcoming events. Save the dates and stay tuned for more information. We hope to see you there!

**25 JUNE** Trivia Night  
June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Dinner Hop Fundraiser**  
August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**29 AUG**

**24 SEPT** Trivia Night  
September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026



**St Paul's**  
Pre-school

**As we celebrate the joy of Easter,  
we are reminded of God's promise:**

*"He is not here; He has risen,  
just as He said." – Matthew 28:6*

We are heading into a busy and exciting month as we look forward to the joy of Easter! The children have been busy learning through many fun, hands-on activities.

We explored colors through painting and mixing colors to make new ones, learned about birds and insects, and discovered more about the world around us.

During our weather unit, the children had a great time pretending to be meteorologists while learning about clouds, different kinds of weather, and even watching our volcano experiment erupt!

While making kites, we talked about how the wind helps the kite fly even though we cannot see it. We compared this to Jesus, explaining that even though we cannot see Him, we know He is always with us. It was a wonderful way to help the children understand His presence in our lives.

To celebrate St. Patrick's Day, the children put their creativity to work making leprechaun traps in hopes of catching the sneaky visitor. Although the leprechaun managed to escape the traps, he surprised the class by leaving behind some fun treasures for everyone to enjoy!

As we prepare for Easter, the children will be making special crosses and making Resurrection Rolls while we share the story of Jesus and the meaning of the season. We will finish our celebration with our annual Easter egg hunt, a favorite tradition with our preschoolers and their families. May this Easter season fill your hearts with joy as we remember the love of Jesus and the gift of new life.

*Shelly Augustin,  
Director/Teacher*



Enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year is open.  
Please share our number: 618-281-4190 to anyone looking for a great preschool!



CHILDREN'S Sunday School

Sunday School Schedule SS hour is 9:15 to 10:15 am.

The Sunday School lessons for

April are centered around God's protection, gift of courage, and the power of His word through Scripture. From the book of Acts, Paul is protected in difficult circumstances and we are reminded how God uses ordinary people and earthly "storms" to carry out His divine plan. In 2 Timothy, Paul reminds his friend that the Bible is true - inspired by God to equip us to live faithfully to do His work. These passages teach us that we, just like Paul and Timothy, can rely on God's faithfulness in every situation.

April Lessons:

Acts 23:12-24; Acts 27; 2 Timothy 1; 3:14-17.



On March 8 right after early service, the Sunday School children and Adult Bible classes met in the fellowship hall for conversation, songs, and donuts. We are grateful for our time together to build and strengthen our relationships! Stay tuned for our next date in April - we'd love for you to join!!



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EASTER/APRIL VOLUNTEERS ELDERS, GREETER/USHERS, ACOLYTES, SCREENS & VIDEO SCHEDULE



Table with columns for dates, greeter/usher, acolyte, screens, and video. Rows include March 29, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.

Volunteers—please let the office know of any edits/trades of dates scheduled. Thank you for your help!



HUGE THANK YOU to everyone that helped, donated



Youth 8th -12th grade Sundays: 9:15—10:15 am In the Loft upstairs

&/or shopped at the rummage sale. We could not have done it without everyone's help. 15 adults and 7 students worked the sale on Saturday, and numerous folks helped setup on Thursday and Friday. Great job St. Paul's Team!!



**OOPS – Increasing that Very Special Number**

Have you noticed how preoccupied we church-going Christians get with certain numbers? The number of members we have or used to have, the number of worshippers or youth or Sunday Schoolers we have at church each weekend, the number of dollars needed to meet this year's budget--just to mention a few. Will those numbers go up or down this year? What can we do to make sure they go up?

Well, here is a **very special number** we can increase in 2026—**The number of times we intentionally bring the name of Jesus into our conversations with others.**

Thanks to the Holy Spirit, it's a number He has promised will positively affect all the above numbers and each of us personally as well. So, what do you say? Will you increase this **very special number** in 2026? Wonder what would happen--just here at St. Paul's—if we all did that? Your BOCO strongly suggests we do!!!

**Just another OOPS from your Board of Christian Outreach.**

**APRIL HOLIDAYS**

- 1-April Fool's Day
  - 2-National PB&J Day
  - 3-National Find a Rainbow Day
  - 4-National Burrito Day
  - 4-National Walking Day
  - 7-World Health Day
  - 10-National Siblings Day
  - 11-National Pet Day
  - 12-National Grilled Cheese Day
  - 14-Palm Sunday (varies each year)
  - 15-National Tax Day
  - 15-National Laundry Day
  - 16-Wear Pajamas to Work Day
  - 18-National Haiku Poetry Day
  - 20-Husband Appreciation Day
  - 21- Easter(varies each year)
  - 22-Earth Day
  - 22-National Jelly Bean Day
  - 23-National Picnic Day
  - 25-Administrative Professionals Day
  - 26-Arbor Day
  - 26-National Pretzel Day
  - 28-National Superhero Day
  - 30-National Honesty Day
- SO FESTIVE.COM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Compassion help  
blessing grace  
with generosity  
Jesus  
comfort kindness  
love peace hope

**FOOD PANTRY** Ministry

227 North Goodhaven Street, Columbia, IL 62236

**Current Pantry Needs:**  
**Brownie Mix**  
**Pineapple, Chili**

MONTHLY: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays: 1:30 -3 pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday: 4-5:30 pm  
Call 281-4600 for assistance on all other days.

**April Wednesdays: April 1, 8, & 15**  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed - 1:30-3pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed - 4-5:30 pm



**Please consider an increase in your giving. To support a new DCE position in 2026, we will need even more contributions!**

**Congregational Call Meeting to Call a Director of Christian Education**  
On Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:45am we will have a congregational meeting with the purpose of calling a Director of Christian Education for our congregation. The call committee has been meeting for three months and has two candidates to present to the congregation for this position. Information on those the two individuals will be given at that meeting, and each of the call committee members will give their thoughts on the candidates and be available to answer any questions from the congregation. This meeting will take place in the fellowship hall and will include a light lunch.



**LADIES LEAGUE/ LWML**

Our meeting on March 5 started with a devotion given by our VP Susan Housewright. It's Time In the Word "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: ... a time to keep, and a time to cast away" (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 6b). Now during spring cleaning and rummage sale time we must decide what to keep and what to get rid of. In our personal life we must decide- do we want to keep regrets, angers, and discouragements, or do we want to give them up to God and let Him help to remove them. *Walking with my Lord, through the help of Your Holy Spirit free me from any bitterness in my life. Help me to live with joy for today and trust for the future. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

After lunch, Pastor Krenz led us through a study of prayer, "Growing in Our Understanding and Practice of Prayer." Prayer is mentioned in the Bible many times; a few examples are: **Ephesians 6:18-19, Matthew 26:41, James 5:16, 1Thessalonians 5:17, 1 Timothy 2:5-8, Romans 8:26, John 14:13, John 15:15, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Psalm 50:15, and John 16:23.** God does hear our prayers, and prayers can be as natural as breathing.

We then had our business meeting. We welcomed two new members, Donna Stine and Sandy Louis. The various committees gave their reports. We will be getting some new spring door decorations.



**Updates—**

1) **LWML SID Spring Retreat will be held on Saturday, April 18** at Our Savior Lutheran Church and Student Center in Carbondale from 9-2:30. **Registration form and \$20 fee due by April 1;** Jane has copy of forms.

2) **The Zone Spring Prayer Service will be held April 25, 8:30-12:15 at Immanuel in Waterloo.** There is no registration fee, but Jane needs a **head count by April 15** of those going. They will host an **ingathering of sewing items** for Christian Friends of New

Americans. Pastor said this was a new organization that helped foreign families settle into the St. Louis area. See Jane for list of items and please bring your donation to the next meeting if you do not plan to attend that day.

**Music Bingo – Sunday, April 19 1-3** to benefit Alumni Association of LSN at Holy Cross in St. Louis. Lutheran **Older Adult Retreat -- This will be held on April 15-16 at Pere Marquette Lodge in Grafton.** The cost is \$135 plus lodging. 618-979-3376.

**Church Cleaning** -- Mitzi Ottwell. reminded us of the upcoming cleaning of the church—April 10, 11, and 18.

We sang Happy Birthday to Deb Eischer. After the meeting we signed Easter cards for our shut ins and college students.

Thank you to our hostesses Deb Eischer and Lillian Koenigstein. Our **next meeting will be April 9th.** Our hostesses will be Wanda Gross and Stefanie Newbill. Lunch will be provided by our guest speaker.

*All women of the congregation are invited to attend our meetings or events. Monthly mtgs are on the first Thursday of the month, at 11:30am in the fellowship hall.*

*If you have questions please contact Jane E Stumpf at 314-852-8776.*

**LWML Mission Statement**

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

*Wednesdays with Nancy,*  
**10 am** *Women of the Bible*  
 WOMEN'S  
**BIBLE STUDY**



**Comforts of Love Quilters-Tuesdays** Quilters meet Tuesdays from 9 am -10:30 am  
 Please join us! We have "sew" much fun!

Thank you for all your support! Questions? contact Wanda Gross or Marilyn Snider.

The quilters are in need of any material remnants you have, including flat bed sheets size full and larger, and fitted size queen and larger. Place your donations in the closet under the stairs off the hallway to the fellowship hall.



Member Spotlight

Patrick, Bethany, Kaylee, Alexis & Collin Grandt

Tell us how long your family has been members at St. Paul's and how you got connected.

We joined in 2015 when we moved here from Cedar Rapids, Iowa to be closer to family. We have been LCMS members our whole lives.

Tell us about your family and your interests and what you enjoy doing outside of church.

We have three children: Kaylee, Alexis, and Collin. They all attend school here in Columbia. As a family we enjoy traveling, spending time with family, boating, and playing games. Our family also has avid readers, hunters, and runners. Bethany is an algebra teacher at Columbia High School, and Patrick is an engineer.

Tell us what you like best about St. Paul's. St. Paul's aligns with the doctrine we believe and has a similar feel to the churches we grew up in.

Tell us what committees you have served on or what groups in our church you enjoy.

Kaylee, Alexis, and Collin all participate in youth group activities at St. Paul's. Patrick has served as an elder and on the Youth Board, and is currently on the DCE Call Committee. Bethany helps with VBS in the Summer and Breakfast with Mary and Joseph in December.

What is your families favorite Bible verses or stories about Jesus?

Psalm 46:10

Be still, and know that I am God.



Mark Your Calendar!

Save the dates:

June 8th—June 12th VBS

From the Board of Directors and Staff of Life Network... St. Paul's Lutheran,

Thank You for participating in the Baby Bottle Project. You returned 19 bottles - and donated \$559.70. We Really appreciate your support. You are helping us meet the needs of our Moms and little ones.



Monday evenings at St. Paul's...

5:15 pm Adult Choir +

6:30 pm Divine Service



Wednesday evenings at St. Paul's:

7 pm Jr. Confirmation

& 6:45 pm Handbell Choir



Deadline for Submissions

(articles, photos, calendar updates)

For May 2026 Newsletter: 4/20





Dear Friends and Members of St. Paul's,

The three women who first heard that Jesus had risen understandably responded by saying these words seemed to them like an "idle tale" (nonsense). This is the only time in the New Testament that this phrase appears. Prior to Jesus' death and resurrection, we see Him perform around thirty miracles. As amazing as those miracles were, no one described them as idle tales. Even in a time when fanciful stories of Roman and Greek gods and goddesses were common, the resurrection of Christ still seemed to many like an idle tale.

Later, Peter goes to the empty tomb. He sees the burial cloths, and his reaction is not dismissal but wonder—he marveled, which can be understood as being "astonished out of one's senses."

Our old nature, the world, and the evil one would have us believe that Easter, while generally hopeful, is in the end merely an idle tale—perhaps just one story among many religious traditions.

But this Easter season, my prayer is that as you hear, sing, and confess the resurrected Savior, the Holy Spirit will lead you to marvel—to be truly astonished—that God would take such dramatic steps to love you.

In the name of our Risen Savior, Pastor Krenz



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Pastor Stephen Krenz 618-363-0121 Josh Gillespie 405-570-5464 Austin Kudray 586-295-5524	

April 2 6:30 pm	Maundy Thursday "Respite" Luke 22:7-10	Pastor Krenz
April 3 Noon & 6:30 pm	Good Friday "Evidence" Matt 27:38-54	Pastor Krenz
April 5 8 & 10:30 am	Easter "Vindication" Mark 16:1-8	Pastor Krenz



### The Look Series:

In April we will have a sermon series titled "The Look" as we examine how the early church proclaimed the risen Savior through the early sermons in the book of ACTS.

April 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Acts 5:29-42  
 "The Look of Witnessing rejoicing, and suffering for the Risen Christ"

April 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Acts 2:14, 36-41  
 "The look of response to the call of Christ"

April 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> Acts 2:42-47  
 "The look of worship in the Body of Christ"

May 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a, 51-60  
 "The look of care and witness in the Body of Christ".

