

~ St. Paul Epistle April 2026 ~

To have faith like Mary...

There is something very special about the faithfulness of Mary Magdalene, and I always feel like we don't end up talking about her story enough. Mary Magdalene, often called 'The Apostle to the Apostles,' has faith that is strong not just when it is convenient, self-serving, or comfortable. Her faith is strong in the midst of pain, despair, hopelessness, and, perhaps worst of all, *silence*.

On Easter Vigil we will read John 20:1-18, and in this passage, we hear that Mary Magdalene approaches the tomb of Jesus while it is still dark. Seeing that the stone was rolled away, she ran to get Simon Peter. Simon Peter and the other disciple went with Mary and saw the tomb was empty, aside from the wrappings that had been on Jesus's head. Not understanding, Simon Peter and the disciple returned to their homes and left Mary at the tomb, weeping.

It was there, while she was weeping, that she saw Jesus, whom she assumes is the gardener. But Jesus calls her by name, and she recognizes him as Jesus, her Teacher and friend. From there, Mary went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord."

Mary's faithfulness led her to the tomb to care for her Teacher before anyone else - in the dark and quiet, she went to his resting place to care for him even in death. Mary's faithfulness kept her at that place outside the tomb, wondering about Jesus's body after seeing the empty spot where he had been laid. Mary's faithfulness kept her in that place in the garden where she was the first to encounter the voice that broke through the quiet and the light that broke through the darkness in Jesus Christ risen from the dead.

In my humble opinion, having faith in silence is the most difficult. Faithfulness in God is easy during the good times, when we see God's love for us through friends, family, and blessings. Faithfulness in chaos is more difficult, as we experience pain, suffering, grief, and wailing. But at least in the chaos, we feel God's presence - we reach out for God with anger, or for seeking comfort. We know that God is still there, with us, even if we are wailing, desperate, or afraid.

But in the silence, in the *stillness*, as feelings are more nebulous and we are searching for reason and answers, it can be so difficult to feel God. And it's then, in those moments, when our faith becomes the weakest. Because we can't feel God, we can't see God. Like Mary, we have come expecting *something*, even a body, but all that is left is emptiness. Who, then, do we reach for? What do we pray for? To *whom* do we pray?

But, it's also those moments of waiting and silence that give room for the Good News of God to burst forth. Like a flower in the springtime, or in the twilight before dawn, or the breath before a laugh, that moment of silence is necessary. To have faith that the silence will break is simultaneously the most difficult challenge, and gives way to the most glorious reward. We need that moment of silence, the space and uncertainty, so that change can happen. So that God in Christ through the Spirit can go to work, rebuilding, creating, forgiving, and loving.

Easter Vigil is the service during Holy Week when we wait, like Mary Magdalene, for the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The tomb is empty, but we have not yet seen the Lord. And perhaps the reason that Vigil is so long is because it forces us to be patient - to be faithful when it is quiet. To surround ourselves with our Siblings in Christ who can support us when

our faith falters. To give one another our strength and our company as we collectively hold our breath for the inevitable *Alleluia!*

Alleluia! will always come. God in Christ through the Spirit has shown us that nothing, not even death, can stand between God and God's hope, vision, forgiveness, and love for the world. So the challenge and the invitation is to wait with faith in the discomfort and the quiet, to hold the space for the Spirit of God to work.

As I reflect on Vigil that gives way to Easter, quiet that gives way to joy, and discomfort that gives way to hope, it makes me wonder about the other places in our lives where we might have the opportunity to sit and wait with faith. It makes me wonder if we have opened our eyes lately to see if anyone in our lives needs someone to lean on as they experience their own quiet, discomfort, and loneliness. How do we help them hold Vigil for the dawn, for the Good News, to break forth? How can we be like Mary for one another?

Easter Blessings and Alleluias!,

-Pr. Riley

Holy Week

SERVICE SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY*

9:00 am at Immanuel; 11:00 am at St. Paul

MAUNDY THURSDAY

5:30 pm at Immanuel

GOOD FRIDAY

5:30 pm at St. Paul

EASTER VIGIL

8:00 pm at St. Paul

EASTER SUNDAY*

9:00 am at Immanuel; 11:00 am at St. Paul

**Please note the time change at St. Paul for these days*

Holy Week

The Great Three Days (also called the Triduum) marks the end of Lent.

You are highly, *highly* encouraged to make plans to attend as many Holy Week services as possible. There is something incredibly powerful about hearing the story of Jesus' last week, last night, death, vigil, and resurrection! Easter is more important than Christmas!

Maundy Thursday (4/2) 5:30 pm at Immanuel

Good Friday (4/3) 5:30 pm at St. Paul

Easter Vigil (4/4) 8 pm at St. Paul

(Yes, this replaces the usual Saturday night service.

Expect this worship to last 1.5 hours.)

Easter (4/5) 9 am at Immanuel, **11 am** at St. Paul

*Please note the time change for St. Paul on Easter Sunday

Worship Assistants Serving in April

Friday April 3 ~ Robin Colglazier

Saturday April 4 ~ Lester Hallquist

Saturday April 11 ~ Linda Patterson

Saturday April 18 ~ at Immanuel

Saturday April 25 ~ Patti Larsen

Sunday April 5 ~ Joyce Craney

Sunday April 12 ~ Sherry McCarter

Sunday April 19 ~ Marian Myers

Sunday April 26 ~ Glen Hughes

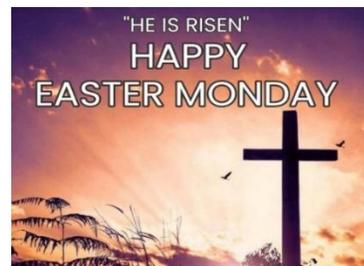
4 Albert Bollman
6 Evelyn Strom
8 Amber Pitchford
7 Dennis White
10 Julie Pitchford
12 Joyce Craney, Esther Hicks
14 Gerald Carlson
15 Cindy Bell, Glen Hughes
16 Gary Guenther
20 Cedi Cover, Maxine Porter
22 DeAnna Wilson
24 Evan Colglazier, Cyndi Starr





Thank you to all who donated blood
at the Blood Drive on March 6th.

The St. Paul Church Office
will be closed on Monday April 6th



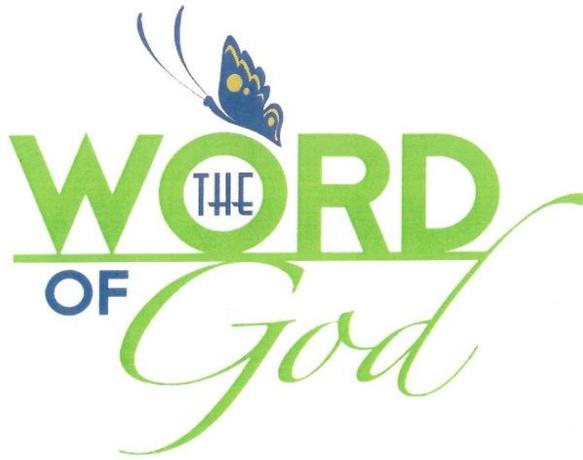
The Social Committee invites you to the Founders Day Presentation
by Tom Wadsworth
at Loveland Community House & Museum
Saturday, April 11 at 10 am
After the presentation,
we will gather at Fresco on First for lunch.

WELCA
IS HOSTING A
"TRIP TO CHINA"
PRESENTATION

WELCA is hosting a "Trip to China" presentation.
Pastor Leo and Linda Patterson will be sharing
about their exciting trip to China.
Stories and pictures
will be included in the program.
Thursday, April 16th at 7 pm
in the Fellowship Hall at St. Paul Lutheran, Dixon.
Sesame cake and tea will be served.
Also coffee.
Please join us and everyone is welcome.

[GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY APRIL 12th](#)

There will be a special presentation by LSSI.
Pr. Kelly Nieman-Anderson will be preaching.
Kathy Hall will be giving a temple talk.
Don't miss this special Sunday.



"Raising Our Voices: Proclaiming the Gospel When the World is Loud"

Proclamation isn't shouting louder than hate...it's speaking, living and standing in love, truth, and justice as people claimed in Christ.

WELCA SPRING RETREAT 2026

"Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ."

1 Peter 4:11

APRIL 25, 2026

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

LOMC Oregon, IL

\$30 per person

Scholarships are available

Program and Worship led by
Pr. Laurie Hensley, Bethany ELCA, Woodhull, IL



Northern Illinois Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

WELCA Coffee

Wednesday, April 8th

9:00 am

Come enjoy a wonderful time of fellowship with coffee and breakfast!



Just a reminder Easter Sunday Service will be at 11 am



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY APRIL NEWSLETTER

Immanuel
Lutheran

St Paul
Lutheran

2 churches, 1 mission — 2026 —

"Given for you."



HOLY WEEK

**Easter Egg Hunts
(Sunday, April 5)**

10:00 am @ Immanuel

10:00 am @ St. Paul

(w/ scavenger hunt)



"Jesus is RISEN!"



"He is not here"



Holy Week

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5:30 pm at Immanuel

GOOD FRIDAY

5:30 pm at St. Paul

EASTER VIGIL

8:00 pm at St. Paul

EASTER SUNDAY*

9:00 am at Immanuel; 11:00 am at St. Paul

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THANK YOU!



... for supporting the St Paul Spaghetti Dinner in February! With St Paul's February Children's offerings the St Paul youth delivered a check for nearly \$900 to Dixon public schools to help with student lunch debt! The youth also raised nearly \$700 for their youth fund! Thanks be to God!



THANK YOU!

... for supporting Immanuel's Fundraiser!.....our youth raise over \$400.00 to help support future faith formation trips.

**TRIVIA
NIGHT**



APRIL CHILDREN'S CHANGE/OFFERING

ST PAUL:

2026 VBS
service projects

IMMANUEL:

ILC Youth
Ministry



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY APRIL NEWSLETTER

2

ILC

Sundays, 9:15 AM

April 5 (10am) Easter Egg Hunt
\$\$\$ Only One Golden Egg per Person

April 12, 19, & 26 Regular classes

SUNDAY SCHOOL

SPLC

Sundays, 9:30 AM

April 5 (10am) Scavenger hunt
(10:30am) Easter Egg hunt

April 12, 19, & 26 Regular classes

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION | FAITH FORMATION

Confirmation

Sunday, 1-3 pm
at ILC

Attend Holy Week Services
April 2nd - 5th

4/19: Class at ILC

5/3: Class at ILC
(digital media projects due)

5/17: LAST CLASS at ILC

5/31 Affirmation of Baptism
Sunday

10:45 am at St Paul



Called

To SERVE

Come be the hands and feet of Jesus



VBS

June 22-25, 2026

at Immanuel Lutheran Church



4 Nights of Serving Like Christ
5-8pm

Dinner Included
Pre-K to 5th grade

Registration opens May 1st
Watch for details!

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY APRIL NEWSLETTER

3

UPCOMING EVENTS



Current Pricing:

Adults \$91/full event

Youth \$51/Full event

See Somar for more information or...

Sign-up on Youth Information Station
Board at ILC



6th-12th Grade Trip: Tuesday, June 30th
Registration closes JUNE 1st, 2026

Get your name to Somar or Tori or
Sign-up at Youth Information Station Board
by Somar's office @ ILC

ELCA YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT
GATHERING 2027

Minneapolis
June 28 – July 2



Mark your calendars! Registration
opens October 21, 2026! Join this
amazing event for current 7th - 11th
graders and young adults 18 - 35.

*The 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering is
more than an event – it's a
movement where young people and
leaders come alive in faith, grow in
hope and move with purpose. This is
where the church comes to life.*
elca.org/gathering

More details coming soon!



join us for a night full of fun,
laughter, and friendly
competition!

**to God – whose power now
at work in us can do
IMMEASURABLY MORE
THAN WE ASK OR IMAGINE.**

Ephesians 3:20

APRIL 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p><i>Happy Easter!</i></p> <p>ILC Easter Egg hunt 10am</p> <p>SPLC Scavenger hunt & egg hunt 10am</p>	<p>ILC & SPLC Church Closed</p>			<p>5:30pm Maundy Thursday @ ILC</p>	<p>5:30pm Good Friday @ SPLC</p>	<p>8pm Easter Vigil @ SPLC</p>
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<p>SS</p> <p>ILC - 9:15am</p> <p>SPLC - 9:30am</p> <p>SPLC Youth Committee mtg - 9:15am</p>	<p>3:30pm -FtBY @ ILC</p>				<p>5-7pm Family Game Night @ ILC</p>	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<p>SS</p> <p>ILC - 9:15am</p> <p>SPLC - 9:30am</p> <p>1pm Confirmation @ ILC</p>	<p>3:30pm -FtBY @ ILC</p>					
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
<p>SS</p> <p>ILC - 9:15am</p> <p>SPLC - 9:30am</p>	<p>3:30pm -FtBY @ ILC</p>					

CONTACT US

SPLC: Gerad Von Holten
 Email: youth@stpauldixon.org

ILC: Somar Bryson
 Email: yfdirector@ilcdixon.org

EASTER EGG HUNT

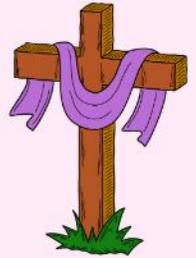
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EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 5

*He is
RISEN!*

"LIFE-OF-JESUS" SCAVENGER HUNT

- Scavenger hunt 10am
- Egg hunt 10:30am



APRIL

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1
1:00 pm Music & Worship meeting
3:00 pm Christian Ed/Faith Formation meeting

2
11:00 am Chair Yoga
1:00 pm Praise Band rehearsal
5:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service at ILC

3
5:30 pm Good Friday Service at St. Paul

4
No 5:30 pm Service
8:00 pm Easter Vigil Service at St. Paul

5
10:00 am Easter Egg/Scavenger Hunt
11:00 am Easter Worship
Easter Sunday

6
Office Closed Easter Monday
6:00 pm Property Committee

7
9:00 am Joint Staff meeting at ILC
9:00 am Line Dancing
5:30 pm Praise Band rehearsal

8
9:00 am WELCA Coffee
2:30 pm Finance Committee meeting

9
11:00 am Chair Yoga

10
1:30 pm Liberty Court Worship

11
5:30 pm Worship at St. Paul

12
9:15 am Youth Committee
9:30 am -10:30 am Youth Group/Sunday School
10:45 am Worship Praise Band
LSSI Good Shepherd Sunday Executive Committee

13
10:00 am Prayer Team

14
9:00 am Joint Staff meeting at ILC
9:00 am Line Dancing
10:00 am Social Ministry meeting

15
10:30 am Heritage Square Worship

16
11:00 am Chair Yoga
7:00 pm "Trip to China" presentation

18
5:30 pm Worship at ILC

19
9:30 am -10:30 am Youth Group/Sunday School
10:45 am Worship
1 pm-3pm Joint Confirmation Class at ILC

20
10:00 am Prayer Team

21
9:00 am Joint Staff meeting at ILC
9:00 am Line Dancing

22
10:00 am Care Ministry meeting

23
11:00 am Chair Yoga
1:00 pm Praise Band rehearsal

24
25
WELCA retreat at LOMC
5:30 pm Worship at St. Paul

26
9:30 am - 10:30 am Youth Group/ Sunday School
10:45 am Worship Praise Band

27
10:00 am Prayer Team
2:00 pm Church Council meeting

28
9:00 am Joint Staff meeting at ILC
9:00 am Line Dancing

29
30
11:00 am Chair Yoga

St. Paul Lutheran Church
421 S. Peoria Avenue
Dixon, IL 61021
Email: office@stpauldixon.org
Website: www.stpauldixon.org
Office Hours: Monday – Thursday, 8:30 am - 1:30 pm
Phone: 815-288-2757
Email: pastoragwindau@gmail.com
pastorreedwindau@gmail.com

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Staff

Rev. Riley Reed-Windau & Rev. Anthony Windau
Co-Pastors

Gerad Von Holten - Director of Youth and
Family Ministries

Rhonda Thomas - Secretary

Brenda Nailor & Sharon Colglazier - General Funds
Treasurers

Lorraine Hussung - Special Funds Treasurer

Church Council

Robin Colglazier – President
Linda Patterson – Vice President
Patty Hallquist – Secretary
Jeanette McWethy
Cyndi Starr
Char Huff
Tim Garnhart