

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH – STILLWATER, MN

THE MESSENGER

APRIL 2025



Wednesdays During Lent

Services at 11:30 AM and 7:00 PM
Soup luncheon after the 11:30 AM service
Mission Soup Supper at 5:30 PM
No supper after the 7:00 PM services

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 12th - 10:00 AM

Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 13th - 9:00 AM Service

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 17th

Services at 11:30 AM and 7:00 PM

Good Friday

Friday, April 18th - 7:00 PM Service

Easter Sunday

Sunday April 20th

Services at 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM
Breakfast from 7:00 AM to 10:00 AM
in Fellowship Hall

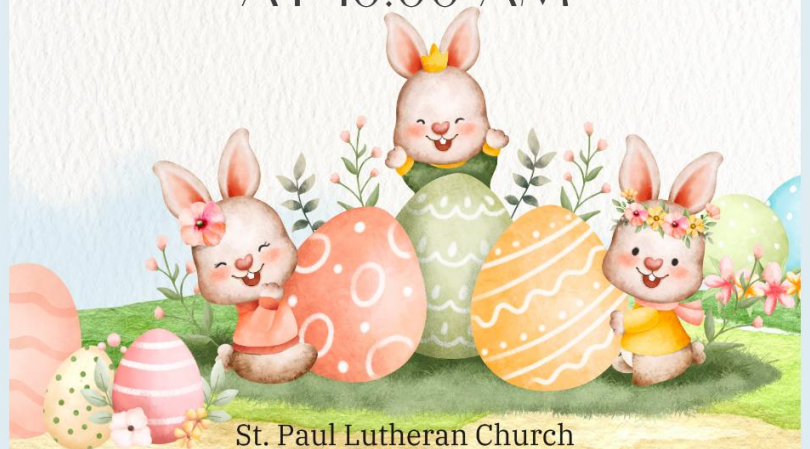
*All 7:00 PM Services are Livestreamed

ST PAUL LUTHERAN INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL

EASTER Egg Hunt

FUN GAMES & TREATS!

SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH
AT 10:00 AM



St. Paul Lutheran Church
609 5th Street, Stillwater, MN 55082
651-439-5970 - www.stpaulc.org



Sharing God's Love for Over 150 Years!

St. Paul Lutheran Church

609 South 5th Street

Stillwater, MN 55082

Phone: 651-439-5970

Website: www.stpaulc.org

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Message from Pastor Nathan

Baptism is about Community by Pastor Nathan Baker-Trinity

This article is the fourth of twelve in a monthly series on baptism. Each article focuses upon a particular theme of baptism and includes questions for reflection. The church council is using these articles for their opening devotions, and you are invited to do the same within your family or small group.

Baptism is about community. We are born into God's family, and we are connected in spiritual friendship with others. Gail Ramshaw begins her children's book, *Every Day and Sunday, Too*, with the following lines:

Snails live in shells one by one,
but we people are creatures who
like being together.

We want to see our friends often, every
day, or at least once a week.

The very first promise that parents make when their children are baptized is "to live with them among God's faithful people." The primary way of doing this is by bringing them to Sunday worship. A sense of belonging and community is the primary obligation and gift of baptism. The church is not a collection of solitary snails but a school of fish swimming together.

One of the earliest descriptions of baptism in Bible comes from First Peter 2:9:

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. This description is remarkable because it reverses the usual order of things. Before we believe certain stuff about God or learn to behave as Christians, the most important thing is that first we belong.

Many assume that becoming a Christian goes like this: First you believe, then you behave, and then you belong. That is, first you must put on your religious "game face" and say all the right stuff about God. Then you work toward self-improvement and learn all the "rules and regs"

of living a religious life. And then, once you've reached a certain bar, then you finally belong.

But nothing could be further from the truth. Our Lutheran churches, in fact, came about nearly 500 years ago as a response against precisely this assumption. It's exactly the opposite that is true: First you belong and assured you are God's child through baptism. Then you learn to behave (like an apprenticeship) by committing to a life of following Christ. And then, as you grow in grace, you come to believe that God's pure acceptance and love of you (and not your good works!) is what saves you.

From the beginning, baptism places us into a community of care and forgiveness. Such a community of forgiveness is a necessary gift, for the world outside our doors can be a very unforgiving place. Here in the church, we cling to God's caring and forgiving presence among us. Weekly proclaiming the forgiveness of sins and eating the Lord's Supper together assures us that this is so.

Questions for Reflection:

1. How does switching the order from Believe, Behave, Belong to Belong, Behave, Believe change things for you? Which order do those outside the church assume is the usual one?
2. When has the church been a community of caring and forgiveness for you? When has it not?
3. Consider this statement by a recent church leader: "There are two ways of thinking and having faith: we can fear to lose the saved or we can love to save the lost. We stand at the crossroads of these two ways of thinking." What's your reaction to this?

Yarnsters!

The next Yarnsters meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 5, 2025, at 10:00 AM in the downstairs conference room. If you like to play with yarn or would like to learn how to knit or crochet, please come join us!



From the Council President

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am writing to you today as your new Church Council President. I am honored to serve you and our church in this role for the coming year. Together with God we can do great things!

God has blessed our church in so many ways. We have a wonderful staff working hard to inspire and guide us in our faith. We have musicians who touch our hearts and feed our souls each week. We have a beautiful building to gather in and open our doors to neighbors. We have each other to share the ups and downs of life by praying, laughing, crying, and serving together. Each of us is an important and vital member of God's family and this place just wouldn't be the same without you!

As we prepare for Holy Week and the joy of Easter in the coming weeks, take a minute and think of ways you can reach out and be there for others. Your efforts matter! A warm smile, a word of encouragement, a note of gratitude, or an offer to help can have a big impact. Mother Teresa said, "Do small things with great love." With God's help, all the little things we do will surely make a difference and glorify Him.

I give thanks to God for all of you!

In Christ,
Shelley Jokinen, Church Council President

Prayer Requests

Congregants: Judith K., Nick B., Alida P., Pastor Laurel, Steve P., Lois H., Mark C., and Abri B.

Family and Friends: Kara, Josh, Emma, Maelynn, Deb, Clark Allison J., Evy, Dave, Georgia, Russel B., Jada, Kyah, Sophie, Ashley, Kylow, Lisa L., Bonnie M., Connie, Shannon S., Mary A., Bonnie S., Leo H., Jane S., Laura C., Lisa, Steph D., Brian D., Tyson D., Teegan D., Lexen, Danny, Harry E., Nadine, Diane L., Jenny O., Lyle J, Kathy B., Vince S, Phyllis F., Rick W., Karen W., Carol L., Beth M., Jeff E., Tom S., Mike M., Jeffrey T., and the Families of Brad L., Judy B., Becky D., Jerry S., Judy E., Jeremy G., Paul B., Scott C., Nori P., Becky M., Julie E., Len S. and Les K.

Senior Section

April 55+ Worship

The April service will be on Sunday, April 6th at 11:00 AM. We will have Ham, cheesy potatoes, green beans, and strawberry shortcake for dessert. The cost is \$8.00. Please sign up in the Gathering Area by Sunday, March 30th or Contact Judy Michaelis at (651) 351-2075. **Remember - Limited Bus service is available for Stillwater and Oak Park Heights.**



No April Afternoon Movie at SPLC!

The Free Afternoon Movie sponsored by the Senior Committee, is taking a break in April. We plan on being back in May so be on the lookout for the date and movie title in the May Newsletter and bulletins.

Large Print Bibles

The Senior Committee has two large-print Bibles available for you to borrow. Contact Bob Michaelis at 651-278-0072.

55+ SPLC Senior Members

Foot Care In Your Home

A Foot Care RN will tend to your toenails or other foot-related care in the comfort and privacy of your home. The cost is \$15 per appointment. Pick up an information packet in the Gathering Area or contact Jenny Powell.



FARE FOR ALL

The Memorial and Grants committee will be sponsoring a Fare For All Food Box pick-up on Tuesday, **April 15th** at Community Thread in Stillwater. The committee will pay for the "Specialty Pack." The menu hasn't been released yet. There is no charge for anyone who would like a box. You will need to be at Community Thread by 3:15 PM and no later than 4:30 PM and look for Diane Podratz. Diane will give you a slip to take to the cashier for payment. Anyone is welcome to get a box for themselves and/or someone they know who could use it.

Pastor Nathan to serve as Chaplain to the Lutheran Summer Music Community

For a fifth summer, Pastor Nathan has been offered the position of Chaplain to the LSM Community June 22-July 20, 2025. The council at their February meeting enthusiastically granted Pastor Nathan leave to take this temporary call that supports the larger mission of the church.

Lutheran Summer Music (LSM) is the nation's premier faith-based music academy for high school students. In addition to musical instruction and numerous performance opportunities, LSM students form an intentional community, living together for four weeks on a Lutheran college campus. Since 1981, this unique and immersive program has guided the lives of young musicians, who credit LSM as the starting place for their future careers and vocations.

This opportunity is both an enrichment for Pastor Nathan's call as a rostered leader to the whole church, as well as a mission of the congregation. In the way other congregations may "lend out" their pastors to serve as military chaplains for a set period (such as for National Guard trainings), it is an honor for the congregation to support and for Pastor Nathan to give back to this important, life-changing experience for youth.

Pastor Nathan's primary responsibilities include: Be the spiritual leader to a community of about 160 students grades 8-12, plus over 50 faculty and staff; Lead worship, preach, and work with a worship planning team of several musicians; Supervise a worship associate (often a seminary intern) who serves as the LSM Sacristan; Plan daily worship services that incorporate students, faculty, and staff; Work collaboratively with a worship team that includes several nationally renowned church musicians; Work with students of different faith backgrounds (1/3 are non-Lutheran); Gain ministry experience with youth.

How would the congregation financially steward this? Pastor Nathan plans to use one of his two weeks of continuing education for the year, as well as one week of his vacation time. In addition, Pastor Nathan will take two additional

weeks of unpaid leave. During Pastor Nathan's absence in July, Pastor Laurel is prepared to be the full-time pastor and plans to preach and lead worship for three of the four Sundays. We will welcome back Pastor Jonathan Zielske (who was with us in February) to preach and lead worship on July 13. He will also be available as extra support for Pastor Laurel should the need arise. CYF/Outreach Director Jenny will also be present to support Pastor Laurel's work.

While he is away, Pastor Nathan looks forward to staying in touch during his time at LSM. Many of their events are livestreamed, including the final two Sunday worship services, so we'll be sure to include a permanent link on our website and weekly email blasts. Pastor Nathan and LSM are very grateful to you, the people of St. Paul's, and look forward to sharing more about this ministry beginning in late April.

Simpon Housing Services



We were one of the first Minnesota organizations to use the nationally recognized Housing First model. Individuals and families are placed into housing immediately and then supported with identified services to help address barriers. We work across the metro area, partnering with property owners and developers to connect families and individuals to affordable, sustainable housing. The majority of our program participants live in scattered-site housing or individual apartments in market-rate apartment buildings, with the largest number of participants living in Hennepin County. Last year, we provided supportive services to over 1,600 people across all our programs.

Simpson Housing Services is proud to announce that it has reached the final phase of its \$47 million fundraising goal—the largest fundraising campaign in the agency's 41 years of service. Simpson has raised \$42 million to date with \$5 million remaining.

Praise God! Pastor Laurel had two important tests this past week, and we're thrilled to share the results! Both the PET (bone scan) and CT scans showed no signs of cancer! She'll begin radiation treatment next week and will also start a targeted infusion therapy every three weeks. In her own words, "While the journey is still long, I shouldn't be as sick and hopefully will smile more."

To date, we have raised \$7,505 for her on the GoFundMe site and donations sent to SPLC in her name. She has also had many contributions sent directly to her. **THANK YOU, MEMBERS AND FRIENDS!** You have significantly improved her ability to manage her financial obligations! Any contribution, no matter the size, is deeply appreciated. Here is the link to her GoFundMe page: <https://gofund.me/695a9ef1>

SPLC can also accept checks on Pastor Laurel's behalf. If you wish to write a check to SPLC, please mark Pastor Laurel on the Memo Line. For members, checks written to SPLC will appear on your giving statement but are not tax-deductible.



WELCOME TO THE 44TH MARCH FOODSHARE CAMPAIGN March 1 – April 6, 2025

At Valley Outreach, they strive to ensure that everyone has access to healthy, nutritious food. We work with community partners, businesses, volunteers, and members of the community every day to ensure their food shelf is stocked with quality food items. Two of the most important ways they get food are through Food Rescue and Food Donations. Both of these methods



help them reduce food waste, provide healthier options to families, and strengthen the community.

The Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign is the largest grassroots food and fund drive in the state!

Every year, this campaign brings together organizations, businesses, faith communities, and individuals to help stock and support nearly 300 food shelves across Minnesota, including Valley Outreach. **This will end on April 6th.**

Valley Outreach has updated their youth volunteer guidelines! At Valley Outreach, we love welcoming young volunteers who want to make a difference in our community. Here's what you need to know:

- Ages 12-14 – Parent/guardian required for sorting clothing & dry goods
- Ages 15+ – No parent/guardian required! Help out in the Food Shelf, StyleXchange Store, clothing sorting, and warehouse

If interested, please go to the following link to get started!

www.volgstics.com/appform/1864185095

Mission Trip Soup Suppers!

Join us for our Mission Trip Soup Suppers during Lent from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM! We're raising funds to support 9 youth and 2 adults heading to Nashville for a mission trip this July. We'll be serving up delicious soup and sandwiches, and for our final supper on April 9th, we're going out with a bang—a fun Baked Potato Bar! A free-will offering will help us reach our destination. Thank you for your support!



Fourth Friday Community Meal!

Please join us on Friday, April 25th from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM in Fellowship Hall for the Fourth Friday Food & Fun Community Meal. All of our SPLC Members and Friends, along with their families, are invited to come for a free meal, hosted by SPLC on Friday, April 25th! The Connect Center began this community meal in 2019; area churches would provide a simple meal to anyone interested in attending. It is a time for some tasty food, good conversation, and maybe even new friendships! Please sign-up in the Gathering Space if you can join us and how many will be coming. Bring the entire family! **Interested in helping be part of planning the "Fourth Friday Food & Fun" event on Friday, April 25th?** Planning will include deciding on what food we should make and how the evening will go. The planning meeting date will be on Tuesday, April 1st at 10:30 a.m. in the Lower Conference Room.

Children, Youth, and Family



All-ages board Game Night on April 25th from 6:30 PM-8:00 PM! Bring your favorite game, and there will be snacks!! See you there!!!!

Join us for Toddler Tuesdays on the 8th and 22nd Tuesday of this month from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM! It's a fun-filled morning designed just for toddlers, featuring engaging activities, interactive play, and opportunities for little ones to explore and socialize. Don't miss out on this special time to make memories with your child! Call or email Jenny at 651-439-5970 or jenny@stpaulc.org

Senior Youth Group for 9th to 12th graders continues on Sunday, April 13th from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the Youth Room. We will be meeting the 2nd Sunday of each month for dinner, games, fellowship, and a short lesson! Please invite your friend!!! All are welcome! Hope to see you on the 8th! **If you would like to help provide something for dinner for them there will be a sign up.** Thank You!

Sunday Shine is taking a break in April, but we'll be back soon! Join us on Sunday, May 18th, after worship in Fellowship Hall for our next gathering. We'll be celebrating all May birthdays and honoring our graduating seniors! Come enjoy a time of fellowship, fun, and celebration - with coffee, treats, and an engaging intergenerational activity for all ages. We can't wait to see you there!



Save the date!!! VBS this year will be from **July 28th to the 31st** and will be in the evening; keep an eye out for more information. It's going to be awesome!!!!

Property & Grounds Update

Synod Assembly Voting Members

In August 2023 a Lighting System Analysis was completed by Xcel Energy. The recommendation was to change the lighting to LED. The estimated installation cost was \$13,583 after rebate with an estimated annual savings of \$3,000. It was cost-prohibitive at the time. Since December 2024, Jeff Thomsen has been upgrading to LED, throughout the entire building and for the most part, he has completed this task.



The cost of the project, including the bulbs, misc. supplies, and Jeff's labor is \$2,895. With his discounts at Lowe's, he initially saved the church an estimated \$450 at the time of purchase.

The church will be receiving a rebate from Xcel in the amount of \$1,320 which makes the final project cost to be \$1,575.

We extend a big thank you, to Jeff for his dedication to St. Paul Lutheran! We are blessed to have him. We also want to thank Barb Dietrich and her husband, who lent a hand to Jeff at times.



"How are they to hear without someone to proclaim..." Romans 10:14

The Saint Paul Area Synod Assembly annually gathers leaders from our area congregations in the springtime. As the highest legislative authority of the synod, voting members from congregations engage in conversation and vote on resolutions, synod council and committee nominations, in addition to other synod business. Most important, they celebrate their shared ministry, partake in meaningful worship, and hear several inspirational messages. This year's assembly will be held at St. Andrew's Lutheran in Mahtomedi, Friday evening through Saturday afternoon, May 16th and-17th. Our congregation is entitled to elect three members to serve as voting members this year. If you interested in being nominated, speak to either Pastor Nathan or Shelley Jokinen, Congregational President.

The purpose of Lent is to prepare Christians for Easter, by praying and focusing on Scriptures related to the "good news" of Jesus's resurrection. Please utilize this Lenten calendar to prepare. Think of how the Lenten Calendar has allowed you to become closer to the cross.

2025 Lenten Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		April 1 Pray for the youth of your congregation	2 Pray for the young adults of the congregation	3 Pray for your minister and the ministers of your congregation	4 Fast from gossip	5 Pray for your ancestors
6 What does it mean for Jesus to be "the King?"	7 Notice yourself being in judgment of others and stop	8 Fast from news Enjoy the silence	9 Pray for new members of your congregation	10 Contemplate what it means for you to be content. What is stopping you?	11 Fast from political debate	12 Pray on the thought "how can I help?"
13 – Palm Sunday Apologize to someone you have hurt Make amends	14 Pay attention to someone you are tempted to brush aside	15 Pray for the person who brought you into your faith	16 Pray for the staff of your congregation	17 – Holy Thursday Pray for the choir and those who serve in your parish service	18 – Good Friday Fast	19 – Holy Saturday Think of Mary after Jesus' death

Memorial Flowers for Easter Chancel Garden 2025

Easter is on April 20th this year. If you wish to order a plant for the Chancel Garden, **we need to have your flower order turned in to the church office no later than Sunday, April 7th**. To order a plant(s), fill out the order form at the bottom of this page and mail or drop it off in the church office. **Please include payment with your order**. If you are paying by check, **please make the check payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church and mark Easter Chancel Garden in the memo**.

You will notice that some plants have a color choice listed. If you have a preference, please circle your color choice. This is **not** a guarantee that you will get your choice, it depends on what they have in stock, but they will do everything they can to do so.

If you prefer to pick something out yourself rather than pre-ordering, you may bring your own plant or flowers. **If you are bringing your own plant or flowers, they need to be dropped off at the church between 8:30 AM and 9:30 AM on Saturday, April 19th and make sure they are clearly marked with your name. If you bring your own plant selection, you also are asked to fill out the order form below with your name and phone number and indicate that you will be bringing a plant or flowers, who they are in memory or honor of, and make sure it is turned in to the church office by April 7th**. We want to make sure that all flowers get recognized in the memorial garden insert and who they are in honor or in memory of.

NAME: _____ PHONE #: _____

Type of Plant	Price Per Plant	Quantity Ordered	Total Cost
Tulip	\$10.00		
Easter Lily	\$11.00		
Azalea	\$24.00		
Hydrangea	\$22.50 Pink Blue		
Chrysanthemum	\$15.00 Yellow White Lavender		
Begonia	\$16.00 Red Pink Yellow		
Totals			

_____ I will be bringing my own plant(s) How many? _____

I would like the wording in the bulletin insert for my/our plant(s) to be:

GIVEN IN MEMORY OF:

GIVEN IN HONOR OF:

OTHER WORDING OF YOUR CHOICE:

Noon Lenten Meals - Wednesdays

Our noon Lenten meals will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 5, and ending with Maundy Thursday, April 17, during the six weeks of Lent. The church service will be at 11:30am with the meal following in the Fellowship Hall. Our chili and soups will be bought from The Lowell Inn. We have received a Thrivent Action Team Grant to help with this event. A free will donation will help cover some of the food expenses and this year the remaining funds will be given to Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC).

What is the Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC)? The first Ronald McDonald

House opened in 1974 and their commitment was to serve communities to positively impact millions of families throughout the world. It is a haven for families with children in the hospital. It provides all the comforts of home, plus the compassion of staff, volunteers, and other families, all just steps away from the hospital. It's a quiet place away from the medical space, for families to recharge, grab a bite to eat, shower, or get rest during the long days of testing or treatment.

Please join us for our noon lunches that will include chili and one kind of soup at each meal, plus great desserts that our people have donated.

We would like to thank everyone who has signed up for working and bringing desserts for our Lenten meals. The Mission Outreach Committee is sponsoring this noon event.



Youth Parent Support Group

Calling All Parents!

All parents of our youth are welcome to meet with Pastor Nathan during the regular youth group time on Sunday, April 13th

He will offer prayer, a devotion, and facilitate supportive conversation. We begin with a meal at 5:00 PM, meet at 5:30 PM, and conclude about 7:00 PM. We would love to see you there!



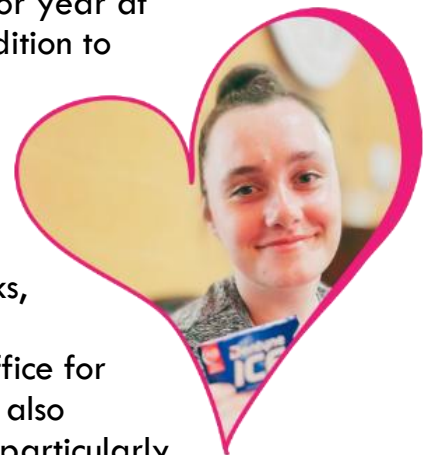
Passion Story

On Sunday, April 13th, we will speak and hear together the Passion story according to Luke's gospel. To help lead this, we are looking for three narrators to "tell the old, old story" from an easy-to-follow script. We would rehearse the Sunday before, April 6th, immediately following worship. Contact Pastor Nathan if you would like to be a narrator!



Care for Alida Peltier

As some of you know, member Alida Peltier is undergoing treatment for thyroid cancer while also finishing her senior year at MSU-Mankato. In addition to encouraging and/or supportive cards and notes, you are welcome to send along gift cards to Target, Cub, Starbucks, Amazon or Kwik Trip. (Contact the church office for her address.) We are also collecting food items, particularly Progresso Chicken Noodle Soup, Cheese Itz, and individual servings of apple juice.



St. Paul Lutheran Church Calendar

As of 3/31/2025

April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 12:00 PM Connect Center Meeting 6:30 PM Worship Committee Meeting	2 11:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM Lenten Lunch 1:00 PM Grief Support Group 5:30 PM Soup Supper 6:00 PM Bells Rehearsal 7:00 PM Worship 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Youth Group	3 9:00 AM Quilters 3:00 PM Mission Outreach 4:30 PM Fellowship Meeting 7:00 PM AA Meeting in Fellowship Hall	4	5 10:00 AM Yarnsters
6 9:00 AM Service 11:00 AM 55+ Worship	7 10:00 AM Sr. Committee 1:00 PM Women's Reading Club	8 10:00 AM Toddler Tuesday! 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 3:30 PM Memorials & Grants Meeting 4:30 PM Parking Lot Project 5:30 PM Financial Operations Meeting	9 11:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM Lenten Lunch 1:00 PM Grief Support Group 5:30 PM Soup Supper 6:00 PM Bells Rehearsal 7:00 PM Worship 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	10 9:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM AA Meeting in Fellowship Hall	11	12 10:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt! 1:00 PM Peer Gynt Dancers
13 Palm Sunday 9:00 AM Service 5:00 PM Sr. High Kids and Parents Dinner & Groups	14 5:15 PM CYF Meeting	15 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 3:30 PM FARE FOR ALL 6:30 PM Council Meeting	16 10:00 AM Oak Park Sr. Living 6:00 PM Bells Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	17 Maundy Thursday 11:30 AM Maundy Thursday Worship 12:00 PM Lenten Luncheon 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00 PM AA Meeting in Fellowship Hall	18 Good Friday 7:00 PM Worship	19
20 Easter Sunday 7:00 AM Breakfast 8:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Worship	21 The Office is Closed Today	22 10:00 AM Toddler Tuesday! 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 1:30 PM Sarah Bible Study	23 1:00 PM Grief Support Group	24 9:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM AA Meeting in Fellowship Hall	25 6:30 PM Board Game Night!	26
27 9:00 AM Service 10:00 AM Adult Forum on LSM	28	29	30 7:30 PM Youth Group			

St. Paul Lutheran Church - 609 S. 5th Street, Stillwater, MN 55082 (651) 439-5970

Office Hours - Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM - Email: spkc@stpaulc.org - Website: www.stpaulc.org