



April 2021

### Worship Services

Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 9:30am

### Sunday Bible Study

Adult 8:30am & 10:45am

Children 10:45am

### Staff

Paul D. Sundbom, Pastor

Marlyss Sekki, Director of Music

Peggy McDonnell, Admin Assistant

### Church Office

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Painesville, OH 44077

(440)354-3000

[www.splcpainesville.org](http://www.splcpainesville.org)

[office@splcpainesville.org](mailto:office@splcpainesville.org)

### St. Paul's Preschool

Amy Marizek, Director

[preschool@splcpainesville.org](mailto:preschool@splcpainesville.org)

[www.stpaulspainesville.com](http://www.stpaulspainesville.com)



## Easter: Church vs. The World

If ever there is a time to contrast the world with the Church, this is a telling time. What does the world do with Easter? What does the Church do with Easter? There are places that have large community egg hunts.

Watch ads on television and somewhere a bunny shows up. Easter ushers in spring fashions. It might provide a chance for family to share a meal. Of what lasting value is any of these things?

Easter is foremost, chiefly about the Gospel, is it not? The death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ is indeed the heart of the Gospel. That is entirely what the Church celebrates on Easter. Jesus Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia! The cross is empty, He does not hang there any longer. The tomb is empty. He is not there, He is risen just as He said.

Not only have we again celebrated Easter and the Good News, but we have opportunity to continually tell a world focused on eggs, bunnies, and fashion that Christ died and rose again for all people of the world. Not everyone in the world will want to hear of a suffering Savior. Not all will believe He died to save them from their sins. Many in the world would never see themselves as sinners in need of a Savior. None of this changed the love of the Father. He was willing to sacrifice His one and only Son so the people he created and loved could live with Him forever. He always desires all to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.

In the world, who you know can make a difference in your life. I guess the world and the Church are similar in that respect. It is all about who you know. Do you know the One true God? Do you know the Father who loves and who created you? Do you know the Son who willingly, obediently offered his perfect life for your sins, and who rose victoriously to defeat your greatest enemies? Do you know the Holy Spirit who lives and works inside of you daily? Let these days of the Easter season be a reminder to you to celebrate the resurrection all year. Let it be a spark to talk about the Gospel. Let it be the reason for the things you do and say. Let the joy of Easter remain all your days.

In Christ

*Pastor Sundbom*

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.  
1 Corinthians 2:2



## Waiting for the Seeds



The hardest part of gardening is always the waiting.

It's counterintuitive, I know. Gardening involves such a long to-do list, each task marked by sometimes backbreaking labor — trenching, tilling, planting, weeding, [spreading mulch](#), harvesting. How could any activity as gentle and passive as *waiting* be harder than all that?

And yet it is. It's hard to wait for the ground first to thaw and then to dry out in the spring. It's hard to wait for the cucumber and squash blossoms to burst open, then wilt, then fall and be followed by a tiny fruit that, in turn, will take its sweet time growing large and juicy on the vine. It's also hard to wait for the first, lone, ripe red tomato — and even harder to wait for the second and the third after you've had a tantalizing taste of what's to come.

Yes, the waiting is always harder than the working, and one particular kind of waiting (the kind of waiting I'm doing right now, as it happens) is the hardest of all.

The hardest part of gardening is waiting for the seeds to sprout.

A couple of weeks ago, on the recommendation of the [Farmer's Almanac](#), I tucked my tomato and pepper seeds into starter mix, sprinkled a little water, said a prayer and zipped them into my portable greenhouse in a warm, sunny spot in the house. Then the awful waiting began.

Every couple of days, I opened the flap to check on them, making sure the soil was damp (but not too damp) and the temperature and humidity were just right.

And I waited.

I hate waiting.

A week or so ago, the first tomato seedling poked its head through the soil. It was a moment of great rejoicing in our house. Life doesn't get much better than the sunshine-soaked tang of a vine-ripened tomato fresh out of the garden. Other shoots quickly followed, and now half of the greenhouse shelf is a riot of leggy sprouts reaching for the February sun.

Half of the greenhouse has come to life, but I'm still waiting on those stubborn peppers to sprout. And while I wait, I stare at the dirt and wonder: Were the seeds too old? Were they not even viable to begin with? Did I skip some vital step when I harvested them last fall? Did I store them improperly? Is the soil too damp? Too



## WAITING FOR THE SEEDS *continued*

dry? Too cool? Should I have ordered a heating mat for them? (Upon reflection, I probably should have ordered a heating mat.) If they don't come up at all, when and how will I know? Will there even be time to start another batch, or will I have to buy someone else's seedlings for my garden this year? Is it all just hopeless?

## Planted bodies

Two millennia ago, the Christians in Thessalonica were also wracked with doubt and impatience over seeds they had planted in the ground — only these seeds weren't peppers and tomatoes, but the bodies of their fellow believers who had died in the Lord. They knew that Christ had conquered death, so why had these beloved brothers and sisters died? They knew that Christ had promised resurrection and eternal life to those who believed in His Name, so why were the "dead in Christ" still dead? When would the precious seeds sprout? *Would* these precious seeds sprout?

To these worried, doubting saints, St. Paul offered the reassurance of the blessed Gospel and of the prophetic Word given to him:

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

*(1 Thess. 4:13–18)*

*The dead in Christ will rise, he told them. Just you wait.*

Just ... you ... wait.

And there we are again, right back at that dreadful waiting.

Looking around me, it seems like a lot of us right now, green thumbs or no, are waiting for seeds that we've planted to poke their heads out of the soil and begin to sprout. We've patiently planted seeds of mask-wearing, social distancing and vaccination over the past year, but they have yet to sprout into relief and freedom from the global pandemic that still plagues us. We've prayed endless prayers for ourselves and others — for deliverance, for healing, for comfort, for peace — yet still we await the Lord's perfect answer to our prayers.



## **WAITING FOR THE SEEDS** *continued*

Many among us, like our fellow believers in Thessalonica, have even planted loved ones in the ground this year, weeping bitter tears and crying out, “How long, O Lord?” and “Come quickly, Lord Jesus!”

We stare at the dirt and wonder: Will these precious seeds ever spring to new life? Can they?

Christ answers us from now until eternity with the resounding YES that is His own resurrected body. He has died, and in Baptism, so have we. He is raised, and in His life, we have life.

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

*(John 12:24)*

Even our Lord Himself has been “planted,” and the long, silent wait of Holy Saturday was the most excruciating creation has ever known. But then came the sprout. The ground cracked open, and the true Vine burst out to glorious life, bearing much fruit — us. Connected to that vine, we don’t have to stare at the dirt and wonder. Our future is forever bound to His. His life is our life.

As Saint Paul reminds us:

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

*(1 Cor. 15:20)*

I honestly don’t know whether my poor little pepper seeds will ever pop their heads out of the soil. Gardening is an uncertain business. Even if you do everything right, there are no guarantees. Sometimes life and growth happen; sometimes they don’t.

I do know this, though: When my time comes to be planted in the ground, it won’t make any difference at all whether the soil is dry or damp, warm or cold, sunny or shady.

When He calls me, I will rise.

When He calls us, we will rise.

I can’t wait.



## Life Quotes for April

**April 4** “As we gather this Easter just with our household, or perhaps all alone, we will undoubtedly miss some of the traditions that we have embraced over the years. Do not lament the loss of what does not last. Rather, embrace the enduring message that ‘He is risen! He is risen indeed!’ It changes everything!” Rev. Robert Fleischmann, Christian Life Resources – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

**April 11** “Christmas, Good Friday, and Easter clinched it for Paul. If God’s Son, divine and holy from all eternity, would take on human flesh for me, obey the commandments for me, suffer and die for me, and rise again to guarantee my forgiveness and resurrection, there can be no doubt. He loves me.” Rev. Mark Jeske, Time of Grace – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

**April 18** “Hang on to Jesus, my dear friend. In Him and Him alone is true life—both now and forever. Though God’s work in the world may be hard to understand sometimes, we rejoice and celebrate as we look forward to all that He has in store for us.” Rev. Dr. Oswald Hoffman, The Lutheran Hour – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

**April 25** “Death is the one thing no Christian has to do on his or her own. Jesus has already been through suffering and death before us. He knows the way through death and the way back to life, too. Our friends and family cannot go with us—but Jesus can. He will never let go of our hands. And He will bring us back to life with Him because He has promised, and He will never lie.” Dr. Kari Vo, Lutheran Hour Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)



## Announcements



### 2021 LWML Convention

**Another curve in the Race?** The convention in Lexington, Kentucky, is only two and a half months away and deadlines are approaching. We persevere in “Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus.” Those bumps, bends/curves along the way are interruptions that can challenge us and slow us down. We don’t want you or the guests at the conven-

tion to miss out on the joy of being with LWML sisters at the 39<sup>th</sup> Biennial LWML Convention, June 24-27, 2021. With God’s blessings, we will reach the finish line with lots of workers/runners. Volunteers, both men and women, are still needed. Pray about being one of the 500 men and women workers. Please complete the Call for Workers! Volunteer Application Form found at the LWML Indiana website, [www.lwmlindiana.org](http://www.lwmlindiana.org). Mark the application, first choice, second choice, etc. Workers receive a generous discount on their registration fee for working a minimum of eight hours, either in two-hour or four-hour shifts, or as needed. Send or email the Call for Workers form to Penny Letterman (see form for address) as soon as possible so the appropriate committee will be able to assign you to a position. When you receive the Worker’s Packet, return the special worker’s registration form with the registration fee discount coupon to the Convention Registrar. The Worker’s Packet also includes work assignment details, special dress requirements, and other worker information. **DO NOT** use the registration form in the *Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly*. To pick up an LWML Convention Logo Polo Shirt at the convention, your order form must be received before May 15. Order at [www.lwmlindiana.org](http://www.lwmlindiana.org). **NO** LWML Convention Logo Polo Shirts will be sold at the convention.

### *April—June 2021*

### *Portals of Prayer Now Available*

The April—June 2021 Portals of Prayer daily devotions are now available. Copies can be found at the back of the sanctuary by the double doors, or on the resource area table. Also available is the Today’s Light devotional.





## *Prayer Quilt*

Don't forget to let JoEllen Graziadei or Kristi McConnell know when you have a friend, neighbor or family member that is in need of encouragement and prayers. We can send a prayer quilt to them with a card and an invitation to church. In these troubled times, it's more important than ever to tell people God loves them and we are here for them.



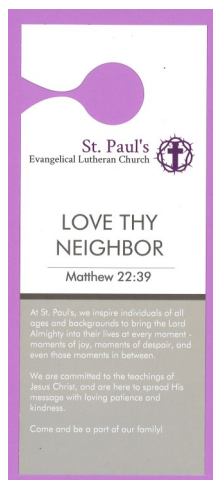
## Looking for a Few Good Men

Do you enjoy working with wood?



The Outreach committee is looking for men that enjoy woodworking to form an Outreach subcommittee to make wooden toys. The toys are for LCMS Missionaries to disperse to children in their mission fields. If interested, and if you know friends that might like to help, please contact Dennis Concoby or Kristi McConnell.

## April Door Tag Distribution and Neighborhood Cleanup Event



The Outreach Committee needs volunteers to help distribute more door tag invitations for St. Paul's church services. We would like to get together teams of two or three individuals. While distributing the tags, we want to pick up litter and clean the neighborhood. We are working on getting t-shirts to identify where we are from. To that end, please let Star Graziadei, Kristi McConnell, Jeff Troutman or Matt Chaffe know you are interested in helping so we can get a shirt for you. We are shooting for this event to coincide with National Earth Day. We will meet in the church parking lot at 9 am on Saturday, April 17th



April 2021



## March Council Updates

Council had no meeting in March because of Mid-week Lenten services. Several committees have filed the following updates.

- 1) Treasurer's Report: Russ reported offerings have been down especially in February, but we're in line with the budget, with expenses up slightly.
- 2) Education Report: Attendance for Sunday school and Adult Bible classes are fairly steady: 3 in K-7, 5 in High school, 8 in 8:30 Adult, and 10 in 10:45 Adult classes.
- 3) Preschool Report: Most of the staff have received required on-line training. Next year's registration has reached 25. Parent -teacher conferences have been held; plans for Easter parties are made and Amy is asking for donations (see office for details). Kathy also reports that the staff has received CPR training. A state audit has found a few deficiencies, and work is underway to correct them.
- 4) Outreach Report: Committee s looking for men who enjoy woodworking to make wooden toys for LCMS missionaries for children in their mission fields. Kristi is also looking for volunteers to help with April door tag distribution & neighborhood cleanup to coincide with Earth Day--date is Saturday April 17 @ 9am at the parking lot.
- 5) Membership Secretary Report: Dennis reports contributions are down 11.7% YTD, as well as a drop in the number of contributors (February's numbers were especially lower). He has also re-arranged the members' mailboxes.

**Next Meeting:** Due to Lenten services, next meeting is April 7 @ 6:30pm.



April 2021



## From the Preschool

### PRESCHOOL



### Registration

### 2021-2022 Preschool Registration

Preschool classes are filling fast though there are still a few openings available for the 2021-2022 school year. If you are interested in your child attending St. Paul's Preschool in the fall please pick up a registration form which can be found in the wooded magazine rack at the back of the church next to the double doors. If you have any questions

please contact Mrs. Marizek at 440-354-3000. If you know someone who has a preschool aged child please pass a registration form on to them

**WE'RE  
HIRING!**

### St. Paul's Preschool Job Opportunity

St. Paul's Preschool is accepting resumes for anyone interested in working in our preschool program. We are interviewing candidate for both a teaching position and an assistant teaching position. The opportunity is part time and preschool experience is preferred but not required. If you or someone you know is interested in being a part of this ministry, please contact our Preschool Director, Amy Marizek at [preschool@splcpainesville.org](mailto:preschool@splcpainesville.org) or (440)354-3000.



## April Birthdays

Emma Randa	3rd	Vicki Ulmann	16th	Gabriella Bennington-Casto	24th
Jan Shutic	4th	Leah Shutic	17th	Riley Javins	26th
Charlotte West	7th	Charlene Sullivan	17th	James Cannonie	28th
Madeline West	11th	Gayle Morgan	18th		



## April Anniversaries

Ed & Linda Prib	50 years on Apr 3rd
Eric & Jenn Drake	19 years on Apr 5th
Richard & Vicki Ulmann	54 years on Apr 22nd



## Altar Flowers



Is there a special someone, date, or event you would like to celebrate, honor or remember. A great way to do that is with Altar Flowers. The Altar Flower Chart is posted on the wall next to the double doors leading out of the sanctuary. All you have to do is sign up next to the appropriate weekend. Be sure to print clearly what occasion is being honored and who the flowers are given by. Altar flowers are \$30.00. This can be placed in an envelope labeled "Altar Flowers" and the date of the weekend, then place in the collection plate.



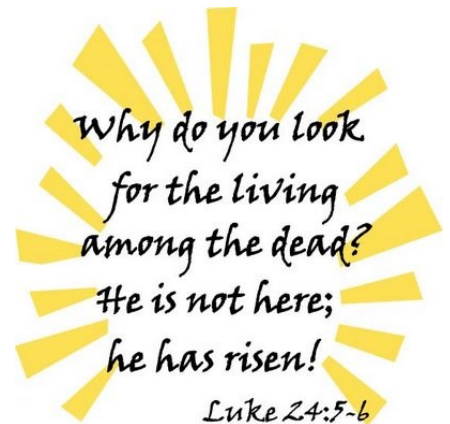
## Those Who Serve: February 2021

### ELDERS:

6:00 P	Saturday	Aaron Lindrose
9:30 A	Sunday	Jeff Troutman/Eric West

### LECTORS:

04-01-20	7:00 P	Thursday	Frank McVan
04-03-21	6:00 P	Easter Vigil	Pastor Sundbom
04-04-21	9:30 A	Sunday	TBD
04-10-21	6:00 P	Saturday	Frank McVan
04-11-21	9:30 A	Sunday	Terry Wakelee
04-17-21	6:00 P	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
04-18-21	9:30 A	Sunday	Craig McConnell
04-24-21	6:00 P	Saturday	Frank McVan
04-25-21	9:30 A	Sunday	Sandy Heckler



### COUNTERS:

Terry Wakelee, Connie Concoby, Dennis Concoby

### GREETERS:

6:00 P	Saturday
9:30 A	Sunday

SIGN UP IN APRIL TO WAVE YOUR  
GREETING TO YOUR FELLOW DISCIPLES.

Sign-up sheet located on the double  
doors at the back of the Sanctuary.

# April 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <b>COMMUNION SERVICE</b>			<b>WORSHIP SCHEDULE</b> Saturdays - 6:00pm Sundays - 9:30am Sunday School - 10:45am Adult Bible Study—8:30am & 10:45am	<b>Office Hours</b> Monday-Friday 9:00am-2:00pm	 <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>	 <b>Good Friday</b> Church Office Closed
1 						
2 						
3 						
4  <b>EASTER</b>	5 Easter Monday Church Office Closed Deep Dish Pizza Day		6 International Walking Day 6:30 Council Meeting	7 7pm Virtual Bible Study		8 
9 						
10 						
11  4:30 Confirmation Class 6pm Youth Group	12 Bicycle Day	13 7pm Choir Practice	14 6:30pm Elder's Meeting 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	15 7pm Virtual Bible Study	16  <b>May News Articles Due</b>	17 9:00am Outreach Door Tag Neighborhood Cleanup
18 						
19 						
20 						
21 						
22 						
23 						
24 						
25  4:30 Confirmation Class 6pm Youth Group	26 7pm Outreach Meeting	27 7pm Choir Practice	28 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	29 7pm Virtual Bible Study	30 	<b>Bulletin Announcements Due Wednesdays</b>  <b>April Birth Stone: Diamond &amp; Crystal</b>