



# *Spirit of St. Paul*

St. Paul Lutheran Church, East Lansing, MI

**April 2023**

Friends in Christ,

Were you ever whipsawed between emotions of joy and then sadness? This is what the story of Jesus during the last week of his life does to us. It starts with a triumphant ride donkey ride into Jerusalem, the passion of Christ and ends up with Christ defeating the devil and the power of death. Right after Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead, for the glory of God, he seals his fate and rides a borrowed donkey into Jerusalem with shouts of “Alleluia, Alleluia” with cloaks and palms put before him. This is no ordinary king. This is a king who is humble and serves with humility. A king who washes all of his disciples’ feet (including Judas) during their last meeting together when they celebrated the Last Supper. These alleluias, however, turn to the crowds calling out “crucify him crucify him.” Jesus was arrested, humiliated, tortured, stripped of his clothing, nailed to the cross and died. The joy of the triumphant entry turns into complete confusion and sadness. The one people had looked at as their hope in life was executed and has been put in the grave. They are afraid and grief stricken.

However, as Paul Harvey would say, is the rest of the story. As we said on Easter while giving thanks for our baptism Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia. When the tomb was found empty this changed the world forever. Because of his actions he has been raised from the dead. The Good News is because of our belief in Christ that **we too, who died with Christ in our Baptism, will be raised with Christ in his glorious resurrection.** There is no need to fear death because the One we believe in has defeated death and has set us free. We are also free to help others that are in need as we love one another as Jesus loves us. We are free to share our Savior with others without fear so they too can believe and also have eternal life. When Jesus says I am the resurrection and the life, he indicates this is not a far-off future promise but Christ is with us now.

As the crocus and daffodils magically appear we turn our attention to the re-birth of the earth and the re-birth of our physical and spiritual lives. We come alive in the sunshine and good weather. We come alive in the church as we give thanks. We give

## **Guiding Principles**

We are a people who:

- ☼ Listen for God's Call
- ☼ Believe and Trust in God's Call
- ☼ Answer God's Call
- ☼ Support each other in times of joy and sorrow
- ☼ Live out our faith in prayer and service
- ☼ Share food with the hungry
- ☼ Believe the gospel is for all, not just Christians.

thanks that we are able to work together. We give thanks for the leaders of the church that guide us through ways to be church at a challenging time. We give thanks for the three youth who are in confirmation. We have so far covered discussions of the bible including translations, chapter and verse, the creation stories, the beginning of mankind, the first family and the first murder by Cain of his brother Abel. We will move on to the creation of civilization and then cover key points in the Old Testament. We are thankful for the volunteers who work faithfully to keep our facilities up to date, aid in worship and song, teach Sunday School, are musicians, help feed people (a crystal-clear mandate of Christ) after worship and in the community, along with those who work on committees, quilt, are a liaison with foreign students at Friendship House and so forth. We are thankful we can keep connected with sick and shut ins and others through YouTube and ZOOM, since they are an important part of our congregation. We are thankful for the new members and visitors we have that are an important part of our worship. We give thanks for Kassy, our new Office Manager who brings a new set of excellent skills and a tremendous can do attitude and good temperament to us. We give thanks for having the resources to carry our mission in the world. So, we honor the past as we look forward to a bright future, trusting in God to give us life while we carry out his mission in the world.

Happy Spring and God's blessings to all,  
Pr. Carl

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## Social Outreach & Ministry

### Food Pantry Report for April 2023 Newsletter



*St. Paul Pantry*

A total of 99 clients were served in February 2023, which meant 35 families were helped. So far since January 1, 2023, we have served 207 clients which means 71 families have been helped. We could not have accomplished this without the support of our congregation and the dedicated volunteers who work at the Food Pantry.

Between January 26, 2023, and February 25, 2023, 1103.3 pounds of food was donated for the Food Pantry from members of the congregation, as well as outside donors from the community. We are very grateful for these donations.

We received good news from Meijer's in March. St. Paul's Food Pantry has been picked to be included once again in the Simply Giving Campaign for spring. The campaign will run from Sunday, April 2, 2023, through Saturday, July 1, 2023. We will once again be partnered with the Meijer's store on Lake Lansing Road. The cards that can be used to donate will be arriving at the end of March and a display will be set up in the Narthex for anyone who wishes to donate. Cards can also be found at the end of the check-out lines at the store. During the upcoming campaign, the Double Match Day opportunity will be held on Saturday, June 17,

2023. For every \$10 Simply Give card purchased on these dates, Meijer will provide an additional contribution of \$20.00, bringing the total to \$30.00 for a single customer purchase.

Volunteers are always appreciated who are able to work on Wednesday evenings and Thursday afternoon pantry distribution days. If you are available and would like to help, please contact Bev Johnson or Tracy Collins.



During April the Food Pantry is continuing to request donations of the following items, which are currently in short supply or unavailable from the Greater Lansing Food Bank.

TOMATO PASTE TOMATO SAUCE DICED TOMATOES

JELLY CANNED FRUIT KETCHUP MUSTARD

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### Upcoming Events



**Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 11:00 am**

Join us for a Fish Fry after worship to raise funds for the Food Pantry!

# Family Sunday FUNDAY!

Sunday Fundays are back! They will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month and all ages are welcome. Questions? Contact Tracy C.

Easter Sunday,  
April 9<sup>th</sup> @ 9:15 am

We have eggs to be filled in the narthex. If you would like to take some to fill, please return them by Good Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!



Here is a list of activities:

- April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Fish Fry
- April 7<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday – 7pm
- April 9<sup>th</sup> – Egg Hunt – 9:15am (No Sunday School)
- April 16<sup>th</sup> – Escape Room (\$25 per person)
- May 7-9<sup>th</sup> – Synod Convention, IT'S ABOUT JESUS, Mt Pleasant
- May TBD – Lugnuts Game
- June 3<sup>rd</sup> – AED/First Aid/CPR training – NO COST will receive a card from American Heart Association, Time TBD, Open to all
- TBD – Concert – MSU Musicians

## April Birthday Celebrations

- 4/2 - Noah K.
- 4/4 – RJ M.
- 4/4 – Doretta T.
- 4/11 – Kathy G.
- 4/12 – Ryan M.
- 4/26 – Vicki K.
- 4/27 – Pat C.
- 4/27 – Kristen O.
- 4/29 – Mary M.



\*if you were accidentally omitted, please contact the church via voicemail or email.

## April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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2 Worship Fish Fry 11am	3	4	5 Food Pantry 5:30-7	6	7 Good Friday 7pm	8
9 Worship No Sunday School Egg Hunt 9:15am	10	11	12	13 Food Pantry 1-4	14	15
16 Worship Escape room Confirmation 7	17 Worship Committee meeting 6:30pm	18	19 Food Pantry 5:30-7 Women's Bible study 11am	20 Council meeting 7pm	21	22
23 Worship	24 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	25	26	27 Food Pantry 1-4	28	29
30 Worship No Sunday School						



**St. Paul Lutheran Church**

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**Our Purpose: Feeding God's people both inside and  
outside while listening to what the people need.**