

April 1, 2026

St. Paul Messenger

Volume 28, Issue 4

St. Paul Lutheran Church



FROM THE  
PASTOR

“The men said to them, ‘Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen’” (Luke 24: 5-6). This reading tells us about distracted visitors to Jesus’ tomb. The journey to the tomb in the darkness of early morning had many distractions.

The women who visited the tomb were distracted by grief and sadness. They had seen Jesus dead and buried and were now visiting His grave. They were distracted by the challenge of moving a large stone so they could go in and finish the traditional burial. The women were distracted by a greeting from two men “in dazzling apparel.”

All of their distractions were addressed by the message from the angels. “He is not here, but has risen.” Jesus had told His followers many times that after three days He would rise again. His promise was now fulfilled. Nothing could keep Jesus in the grave.

The truth and power of Jesus’ resurrection is ours in our Baptism. St. Paul writes in Romans 6, “We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”

We are easily distracted at Easter as well as every season and every day. Sometimes we get distracted by things of the world. Sometimes we are distracted by problems in our family, by disease and by other disappointments. Sometimes we are distracted by the sadness of the death of a loved one.

When we are distracted, we remember The Main Thing. We remember the Easter announcement of the angels telling the women and us that Jesus has risen, He has risen, indeed! Alleluia!

*PRAYER: Heavenly Father, we confess our distractions even at Easter. Take our eyes to the empty tomb and open our ears to hear the Good News that Jesus is arisen. Bless our Easter worship this season and every week. In Jesus’ name. Amen.*

A Servant for Jesus,  
Pastor Kramer

**ST. PAUL SHUT-INS**

We keep in our prayers the following:

**DELORES ATKINSON—Lutheran Home**  
1036 S. Perry St.#207,  
Napoleon, OH 43545

Birthday: **October 13**

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**MARCILLE KATON— Lakes of Monclova**  
6935 Monclova Rd. Room 222  
Maumee, OH 43537

Birthday: **December 19**

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**VIVIAN OBERHAUS — Her Home**  
R219 Co. Rd. 8  
Napoleon, OH 43545

Birthday: **September 21**

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Remember our shut-ins with a note, card or a visit when appropriate.



**Preparing Communion for April is:**

Paul & Linda Bergstedt

**Providing Flowers:**

No Flowers— April 5th

Peg Kern



# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SCHEDULE

April 2026

<u>Date</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
<b>Maundy Thursday</b> <b>April 2 @ 7 pm</b>	Bill Zeiter	Tom Mohler	Carl Gault John Engler
<b>Good Friday</b> <b>April 3 @ 7 pm</b>	Scott Armey	Brian Baker	Seth Izor Tom Kern
<b>Easter</b> <b>April 5 @ 9 am</b>	Howard Kessler	Mike Mann	Tom Mohler Ray Carpenter
<b>April 12</b>	Howard Kessler	Erv Sonnenberg	John Engler Carl Gault
<b>April 19</b>	Howard Kessler	Tom Mohler	Seth Izor Tom Kern
<b>April 26</b>	Howard Kessler	Brian Baker	Tom Mohler Ray Carpenter

## April Greeters Selected

The Board of Evangelism has selected the greeters for April. Greeters are requested to greet for Sunday morning worship service. Greeters are asked to be on hand twenty minutes before service begins. If there are handouts for that day, they will be labeled as such. Greeters should welcome all who come to worship, and request visitors to sign the Registration Book. If a person is unable to greet, please call Dan Seedorf at **567-694-4934**, and he will see that a greeter is in place. A big **"Thank You!"** goes out to all who help to make our worshipers feel more welcome.

### April Greeters are:

<b>April 5:</b>	<b>The Tom Kern Family (9:00 a.m. Easter Service)</b>
<b>April 12:</b>	<b>The Bill Glanz Family</b>
<b>April 19:</b>	<b>The Seth Izor Family</b>
<b>April 26:</b>	<b>The John Engler Family</b>

# *Stewardship February/March*



<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Communion</u>	<u>Offerings</u>	
<b>Ash Wednesday February 18</b>	31	31	\$715.00	
<b>February 22</b>	45		\$5,031.00	
<b>February 25</b>	22		\$255.00	
<b>March 1</b>	41	41	\$2,140.00	
<b>March 4</b>	22		\$475.00	
<b>March 8</b>	51		\$1,275.00	
<b>March 11</b>	24		\$385.00	
<b>March 15</b>	28		\$1,520.00	
<b>March 18</b>	26		\$310.00	
<b>March 22</b>	60	54	\$1,185.00	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>COMMUNION AVERAGE</b>	<b>TOTAL OFFERING</b>
Calculated both Midweek & Sunday	<b>350</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>\$13,261.00</b>

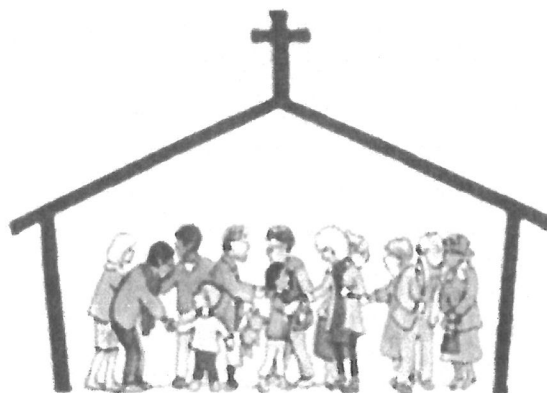
## *Special Offerings*

Seminarian Camp; Parsonage Rent; BG Tips; BG Conc; Preschool; Windows; Jerrod Holly Door Offering

# LWML NAPOLEON ZONE SPRING RALLY

Saturday April 25, 2026

*To God be Glory ...for ever and ever*



*“to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”*

**When: Saturday April 25, 2025.**

**Where: St. Luke Lutheran Church, 1588 St. Route 108, Wauseon**

**Time: 8:30 to 11:15 A.M.**

**Speakers: Rev. Jeff and Deaconess Gina Teeple Missionaries to Eurasia**

**8:30 - Registration and Continental Breakfast**

**8:30 - Board of Directors Meeting**

**9:05 - Program**

**In gathering: Monetary Donation for Rev. Jeff and Gina’s ministry in Eurasia**

**Children’s Bible Story Books (ARCH Books) for their children’s Ministry.**

**Books must be light weight & small because they’re packed in their suitcases.**

**Also: Donations for Mites™ and Napoleon Zone LWML.**

Greetings in Christ!

Josh has just finished his Winter Quarter and we enjoyed his week of break together. We got to visit with Catherine's parents in Wisconsin and then Josh's brother, Noah, came to visit. We will find out where we will be placed for vicarage on April 28th at 7pm. We are excited to learn where we will end up for a year! Josh is looking forward to his Luther Texts class with Dr. Grobien, and studying the Gospel of John in his Gospels III class. He is also excited to play flag football and ultimate frisbee as the weather gets warmer.

Our son, Gideon, is crawling all over the place and is so close to walking. Most of our time home is spent chasing him around the house! He has continued to be a joy in our life. He loves to eat yogurt and cheese (as you can see - haha!) and to gnaw on pickles. We were able to attend the March for Life in Fort Wayne with him and it was very special.

Catherine is continuing to craft, she has made a couple of skirts and has enjoyed wearing them to church! She's also started knitting a new blanket for someone new...

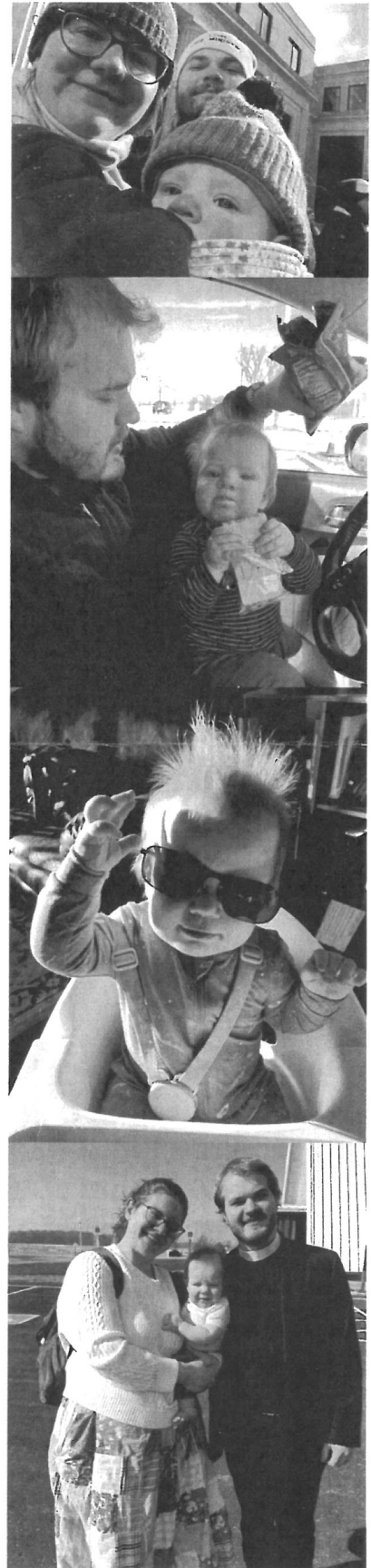
We also just found out that Catherine is pregnant! Praise God! She will likely be due in October. We are thrilled to welcome another child into our family.

We are so grateful for your continued prayers and financial support. Your gifts have enabled us to feed our growing boy and get Catherine the supplements she needs for a healthy pregnancy. During this Lententide we pray you all are enjoying the warmer weather and are looking forward to Easter!

Thank you and God bless you,

Josh, Catherine, Gideon, and Baby Camp

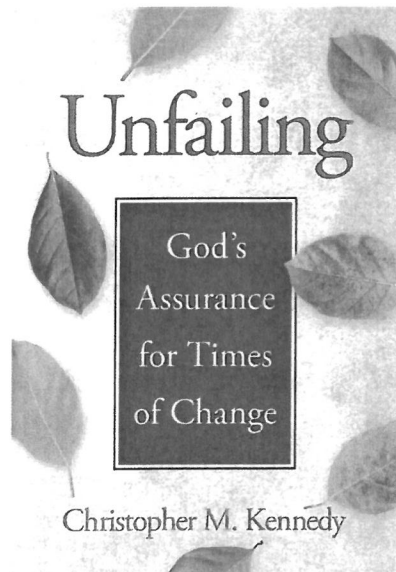
7630 Cold Springs Blvd  
Fort Wayne, IN 46825



NEW BOOK IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY

LOCATED IN THE BASEMENT ON BOOK CART

Title: ***Unfailing; God's Assurance for Times of Change***



What is the book about?

Change unnerves us. When we face a turning point in our lives, we can feel lost, struggling to adapt and move forward. But God does not leave us to fend for ourselves in this broken and often confusing world. He comes to us by His Spirit and through His Word to help us navigate life.

Using examples from the life of the prophet Samuel, the book highlights changes many of us face and points us to Jesus who stands victorious over every challenge and mountain we encounter. When we look to Jesus, we find the help we need in the midst of loss, transition, and disorientation.

No matter how your life has been uprooted by change, Jesus invites you to journey with Him, filled with faith, hope and joy.

Join us for a  
Chicken BBQ



## St. Paul Lutheran Church

8074 County Road T Liberty Center

Sunday, April 26, 2026

11:00 am – 1:30 pm or until its gone

Drive Thru Only

*Please remain in your cars to be served*

*Proceeds for handicap accessibility renovation*

*Menu: ½ Chicken with Baked  
Beans, Cole Slaw, Roll and Cookie*

**\$13**

*Chicken prepared by Erv Sonnenberg*

*Thanks to Thrivent for helping fund this dinner*

*Food preparation and distribution will be handled according to Henry County Health Department Guidelines.*

## BG Concessions Season comes to an End

The 2025-2026 BG Concessions season has finally come to an end. We were blessed to be able to participate in the High School Basketball play-offs. It has been a very beneficial project financially and socially. There is a special friendship among the workers, and God has used us to develop friendships among customers, as well. Currently our total income is **\$19,246.30**. Our tip amount is \$7,996.30, and our working pay is \$11,250.00. March payments are still due us. We thank and praise God for providing this opportunity for our congregation.



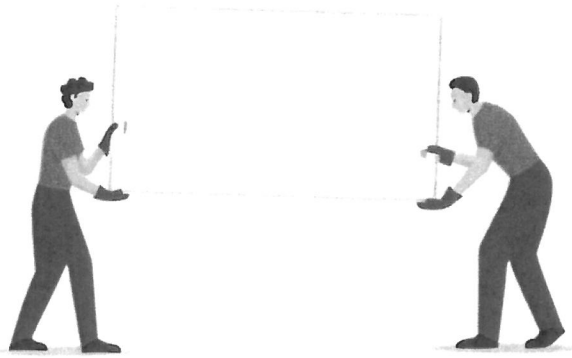
### Save the Date

The yearly Chicken BBQ will be held on Sunday, April 26th. The donations sheet will be posted the first Sunday in April, but if you would like to donate charcoal, now is a good time to find bargains on it. If possible please purchase Kingsford charcoal in the blue, white and red 18 lb bag. This charcoal burns more even and longer. If anyone is interested in helping that day please talk to Carol Carpenter. There are many jobs available and it is a fun day for fellowship with one another. May God Bless this endeavor.

## Donations for New Windows

The Church will be getting new windows, we are asking for donations to help off set the cost of the windows.

The new windows will be installed the first week of May. Our target is \$8,000. We will be accepting donations for the next 6 to 8 weeks.



## Music Department Enhances Our Easter Services

The Music Department of St. Paul Lutheran Church is working on some wonderful opportunities to share our talent for the enhancement of our Divine Worship Services.

The Handbell Choir offers special music for the midweek Lenten Services and Maundy Thursday, as well. They rehearse on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

The Senior Vocal Choir will sing for our Easter Celebration Service Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. They will rehearse on Sunday mornings at 8:30.

The clarinet duet helped us worship on Transfiguration Day, February 15<sup>th</sup>. We will be hearing more clarinet music on Good Friday and again after Easter. They practice Saturday mornings at 8:30.

We praise God for richly blessing our congregation with the many musicians to offer their talents for His praise. If you are interested in any of the groups, join us as we begin rehearsing or talk to Dan Seedorf or John Swearingen, Jr.

Rehearsal times are:

Senior Vocal Choir - Sunday morning at 8:30

Instrumental Ensemble - Saturday morning at 8:30

Handbell Choir – 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays during Lent

## Message from the Board of Evangelism

We understand that people would like to receive the Newsletter via email. But did you know that you can also get the Newsletter on our website [www.saintpaullic.org](http://www.saintpaullic.org). While you are there you can look at all the upcoming events.

And if you would prefer to read it online, please let the office know, to save on postage.

You can also find us on Facebook, along with our preschool

**Church Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/saintpaullyutheranlibertycenteroh>

**Preschool Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/st.paullyutheranpreschoollibertycenter>

# FROM THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

## A Better Way

The most common question about stewardship is not whether a Christian should give to their church. Of course Christians should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most is, “How much should I give?” But this question really means, “Should Christians give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?”

Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isn't necessary because it isn't expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no “Thus saith the Lord,” or “should” concerning tithing. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn't tithe because of some fear. They are afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or that after tithing, there won't be enough left over to get the things that they use, want or need.

Here are some reasons why Christians should tithe. Even though the New Testament doesn't specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of one's income — terms similar to a tithe (2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here's another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? “The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechism's Table of Duties to explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we're not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let's answer this by asking a different question. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? After all, there is no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest verse we have, and it states simply that Christians should not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? The conversation might go something like this. I'm glad you're still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God's promises of forgiveness, life and salvation, and to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I'd really like you to try to attain it.

We should approach the topic of tithing with a similar conversation. The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, we're ecstatic that you're giving, and that you're giving in all these various ways — time, talents and treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God — Old and New Testament alike — promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disappoint.