



# St. Paul Lutheran Church

The Church on the Highway

*Loving others into the Love of Christ*

April 2025 Edition

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## A Message From Our Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Brian Hesse

Email: [pastorhesse@splcwaco.com](mailto:pastorhesse@splcwaco.com)

As you read this church newsletter, you should be thinking about Easter celebrations. Depending on when you are reading this, Easter is in your very near future or you are still basking in the glow of the Easter celebrations. Therefore, we can proclaim, "Alleluia, Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"

This oft repeated phrase shouldn't be the only thing we get out of Easter. As the 40-day journey of Lent closes and is replaced with the joys of Easter, it is also time to evaluate. Did you learn anything during in Lent? Maybe you learned that giving up something important to you was harder than expected. Maybe you learned something new about Jesus, your Savior, your Servant, your Friend; as presented in the Lenten series this year. For a few of you, maybe you learned what Lent was all about as it was somewhat unfamiliar.

I also am looking to learn from the Lent season. Did we learn something about our ability to gather in the Albers Family Life Center for evening worship and meals. Did we learn a new format that works well for our congregation? Are there other ways this format needs improvement or better implementation? Did we find a format that works for wider implementation beyond the Lent season? These are some of the questions I am asking as they relate to what we were able to do during the Lent season.

These questions in no way at all diminish the joys we should experience at Easter. In fact, nearly every pastor enjoys being done with Lent and some of the extra services that come with it. Here at St. Paul, maybe we found a new beginning of something instead of an end. Something that can continue our joy together. I look forward to your feedback on these questions.

As we go through this Easter season, we have much to look forward to. Before you know it we will be in the seasons of confirmation Sunday, graduations and all kinds of celebrations that are yet to come before Summer. It is a time to bask in the joys of Easter learning what Christ has done for us. When we do these things as the people of God then our Alleluias reach an evangelistic tone that clearly joins us to Christ's mission as we love others into His saving love!

**Alleluia! Christ is risen! Alleluia indeed!**



**Sunday Worship**  
8am & 10:30am

Online: [www.splcwaco.com](http://www.splcwaco.com)

**Bible Class/Sunday School**  
9:15am

SAVIOR, SERVANT, FRIEND





## A Message From Our Deaconess

Dcs. Suzanne Krahn

Email: [dcskrahn@splcwaco.com](mailto:dcskrahn@splcwaco.com)

### A Guide to Peanut and Nut Allergies

Nuts are among the top food allergens in the United State. Knowledge is the key to protect yourself from any adverse effects. Twenty-million people have food allergies in the U.S. Nuts are one of the most common types of allergies in both children and adults. Some may even experience life-threatening reactions when exposed to nuts. The best way to avoid any problems is to educate yourself, take precautions, and know what to do if you experience symptoms.

Having a nut allergy is experiencing symptoms when eating or being exposed to nuts. The reaction typically occurs within minutes of exposure. But for some, the reaction may occur up to 6 hours later. Symptoms can range from mild to severe. For some, even trace amounts of nuts can be life-threatening.

Types of symptoms include: **Skin reactions:** including rashes, swelling of the extremities, redness, tenderness, or hives. **Eyes, nose and throat:** (upper respiratory tract) stuffy nose, sneezing, sore throat, itchy watery eyes. **Digestive:** nausea, stomach cramps, vomiting, diarrhea. **Esophagus:** difficulty swallowing, chest pain, vomiting. **Difficulty breathing:** airway becomes constricted or may close completely, shortness of breathing can turn into allergic asthma. **Anaphylaxis:** facial swelling, itchy skin, low blood pressure, changes in heart rate, confusion. These are severe and life-threatening symptoms. Usually an antihistamine will help with the mild to moderate symptoms, but if life-threatening symptoms appear an epinephrine injection of adrenaline is needed to calm the severity of the symptoms. Seek medication attention immediately for any life-threatening reactions.

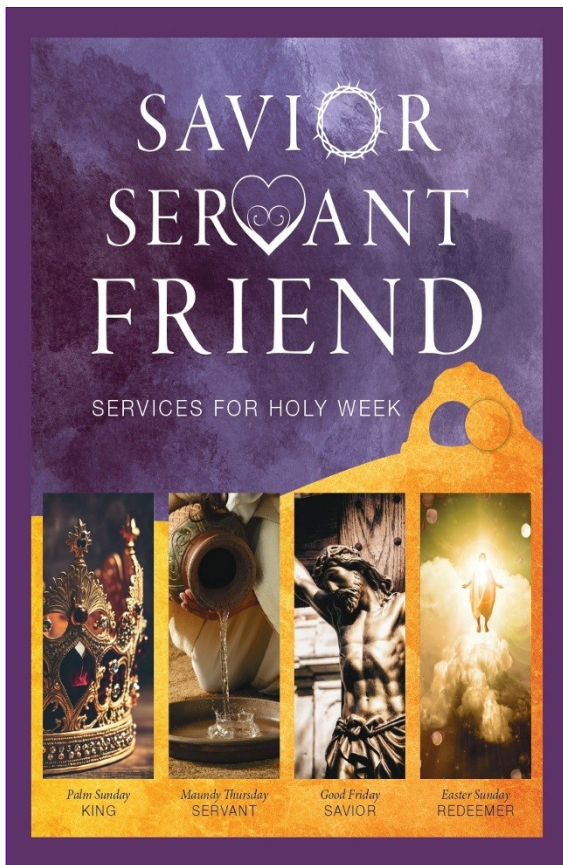
Getting a diagnosis is essential to treating the nut allergies. Being evaluated by an allergist is the safest way to take ahold of the prevention of symptoms, avoid foods and beverages with nuts and nut flavorings.

**ON A DIFFERENT NOTE:** Regrettably this will be my last newsletter, as I have turned in my resignation to Pastor Hesse and the Board of Elders. I feel that it is time that I retire from my position as Deaconess of St. Paul Lutheran Church. As you know, I have had increasing difficulty getting around over the last year or so. I feel that my physical condition is hindering my ability to serve this congregation effectively and efficiently. My last day to serve as Deaconess will be April 30. My time here at St. Paul has been an honor and a privilege to serve you. ***We truly are a family here at St. Paul...so, I will continue to be a part of that family.***

Again, I thank you all for your love and support that you have shown me over these last eight years. It truly has been a blessing to me and my family.

Deaconess Suzanne Krahn





Please join us as we finish out the Lenten season learning more about our Savior, Servant, and Friend, Jesus. We will continue to marvel at the many blessings we received when he laid down his life for us on the cross and then rose victorious from the grave. Each service in this series dwells upon a different aspect of our greatest Friend and what each characteristic means to us as his followers and friends.

#### April 2, Week 4 • Protector

*Jesus protects us from the devil and from danger and keeps us safe in him.*

- **11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary**
- **6:00 p.m. Worship & Fellowship Meal in the Albers Family Life Center** (this week's meal will be Spaghetti, provided by the St. Paul Men's Club)

#### April 9, Week 5 • Comforter

*Jesus comforts us in struggles and sorrows that we might find rest in his promises.*

- **11:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary** (Senior Adults Monthly Fellowship Luncheon follows)
- **6:00 p.m. Worship & Fellowship Meal in the Albers Family Life Center** (this week's meal will be Frito Pie, provided by the LDLT College Group)

## HOLY WEEK/EASTER SCHEDULE

### April 17, Maundy Thursday Worship • Servant

*Jesus is a servant to his friends when he washes their feet and serves them his body and blood in bread and wine.*

- **11:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary**
- **6:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary**

### April 18, Good Friday Worship • Savior

*Jesus is our Savior, who died on the cross to reunite us with God and one another.*

- **11:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary**
- **6:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary**

### April 20, EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP • Redeemer

*Jesus is our Redeemer, who frees us to live a new life.*

- **7:00 a.m. Easter Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary**
- **8:00 a.m. Family Pancake Breakfast (Albers Family Life Center)**
- **9:15 a.m. Children's Easter Egg Hunt outdoors/Q&A with Pastor Hesse AFLC**
- **10:30 a.m. Easter Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary**



HAPPY  
Easter

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, April 21, 2025, to allow staff a day of rest.





# Please Remember in Your Prayers:

- † We pray for continued healing for all those who have suffered physical problems in the last month, including: (a complete list is available in the church office). We pray the Lord lay His healing hand upon them.
- † We pray for those on hospice care, including: (a complete list is available in the church office). May the Lord provide them comfort and peace.
- † We pray for all who are undergoing cancer diagnosis/treatment, including: (a complete list is available in the church office). We pray the Lord keep His healing hand upon them.
- † We pray for all who struggle with ongoing health concerns, including: (a complete list is available in the church office). We pray the Lord keep His healing hand upon them.
- † We pray for all who are home-bound, including: (a complete list is available in the church office). We pray the Lord give them comfort and peace with their living situation.
- † We pray for all those in nursing care or assisted/independent living facilities, including: (a complete list is available in the church office). We pray the Lord will give them comfort and peace with their living situation.
- † We pray for those who have lost loved ones in the past month, including: (a complete list is available in the church office). May the Lord provide these families comfort and peace during their time of grief.
- † We pray for those serving in our Armed Forces: (a complete list is available in the church office). We pray the Lord keep them safe in their stead as they defend our freedom and safety.

**Prayer requests for illnesses, hospitalizations and recovery are listed for 4 weeks. If you wish to remain on the prayer list, please provide the office with an update by calling (254.799.3211) or send an email to: [wecare@splcwaco.com](mailto:wecare@splcwaco.com). Without an update, we will remove that person from the prayer list hopeful that all is well. We are always willing to take new or renewed requests at any time.**





# Those who are scheduled to Serve at SPLC for April 2025

Those serving are listed by initial and last name to protect their identity.

## ELDER OF THE MONTH:

R Bolen

## ALTAR FLOWERS:

4/2 C Moravec (*Lent*)  
 4/6 B & J Nawara  
 4/9 **OPEN** (*Lent*)  
 4/13 H & A Bush (*Palm Sunday*)  
 4/17 B & T Holobaugh (*Maundy Thursday*)  
 4/20 Bi Dube (*Easter*)  
 4/27 D & V Savage

## SUNDAY MORNING GREETERS:

4/6 S Jugert (8:00am)  
 B & T Holobaugh (10:30am)  
 4/13 C Banta (8:00am)  
 J Uptmore (10:30am)  
 4/20 B Moss (*7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise*)  
 D Bracciale (10:30am)  
 4/27 E Pareya (8:00am)  
 S Cone (10:30am)

## ACOLYTES:

4/6 K Gerik (8:00am)  
 R Lassetter (10:30am)  
 4/13 B Petrich (8:00am)  
 A West (10:30am)  
 4/17 L Breton (6:00pm Maundy Thurs.)  
 4/18 D Sterriker (6:00pm Good Fri.)  
 4/20 F Galler (*7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise*)  
 E Williams (10:30am)  
 4/27 D Sterriker (8:00am)  
 J Vicha (10:30am)

## LAY READERS

4/6 J Nawara (8:00am)  
 J Lieb (10:30am)  
 4/13 J Lamar (8:00am)  
 M Weaver (10:30am)  
 4/20 Bi Dube (*7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise*)  
 D Bracciale (10:30am)  
 4/27 T Albers (8:00am)  
 J Uptmore (10:30am)

## USHERS FOR WORSHIP

**8:00am Worship: Group 7** (excludes Easter Sunday)  
 M Jugert, J Banta, D Wolfe, J Strauch, Z Ferguson, H Bush,  
 A Lassetter

**10:30am Worship: Group 8**  
 F Spross, R Krahn, T Kersten, B Holobaugh, D Savage,  
 L Swiggum, Bo Dube

**6:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship: Group 5**  
 R Shelton, H Pick, H Strickland, L Springman, M Perry,  
 D Tynes, C Morgan

**6:00pm Good Friday Worship: Group 6**  
 D Reinke, R Randolph, S Reinke, D Galler, D Bood,  
 T Randolph

**7:00am Easter Sunrise Worship: Group 1**  
 J Lamar, C Morgan, B Gilchrest, Bi Dube, J Ehlers,  
 M Borchardt, C Hesse

## NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

4/6 **OPEN - Volunteer Needed** (9:15am)  
**OPEN - Volunteer Needed** (10:30am)  
 4/13 W Ehlers (9:15am)  
**OPEN - Volunteer Needed** (10:30am)  
 4/20 P Price (9:15am)  
**OPEN - Volunteer Needed** (10:30am)  
 4/27 M & C Borchardt (9:15am)  
**OPEN - Volunteer Needed** (10:30am)

## **A NURSERY MINISTRY INTEREST MEETING**

**will be held on Sunday, April 6 (lunch will be provided). This meeting is for anyone who has benefitted from our nursery ministry; those currently serving in the nursery, anyone who has served in the nursery previously, or anyone who may be interested in serving in the nursery. We love new ideas and partners, current, past and NEW!**

**If you are interested in partnering with us in this ministry, please contact the Dir. of Youth & Family Ministry, Josh McNamara, in the church office.**



# Election of Church Officers

Church Officer Elections will be held on Sunday, April 27, 2025, during both worship services. The slate of nominees for the offices listed below will be introduced in both services on Sunday, April 13, 2025. Please continue to be in prayer for the Call Committee and our church family as we prepare for church elections this month.

- ❑ Chairman of the Congregation
- ❑ Treasurer
- ❑ Chair, Board of Youth Ministry
- ❑ Chair, Board of Stewardship
- ❑ Chair, Board of Outreach
- ❑ Four Elders

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any member of the Call Committee or the church office. A list of those serving on the Call Committee is available in the church office.

## LWML NEWS:

- **MITE BOX SUNDAY, APRIL 6:** LWML will continue having regular Mite Box Sundays, the first Sunday of each quarter (January, April, July, and October). Please bring the contents of your mite box and place it in the display located in Mission Central in the church foyer. We suggest that you place your donations in a Ziploc bag. This way you can keep your mite box. Don't have a mite box? You can pick up one at our display in the church foyer. As always, all monies collected will be sent to LWML Texas District for Mission Grants. Check out our Mission Grants at [LWMLTXDist.org](http://LWMLTXDist.org). Thank you for your participation!
- **BAKE SALE, APRIL 6:** Make plans to enjoy a sweet treat at the LWML Bake Sale on Sunday, April 6, 2025. Stop by our table in the foyer and grab a treat between services! All proceeds will benefit LWML MITES.

If you have any questions, please contact Jacqueline Uptmore, or one of the LWML members.

## LWML BAKE SALE



**Make plans to enjoy a sweet treat at the LWML Bake Sale on Sunday, April 6, 2025.**

**Stop by our table in the foyer and grab a treat between services! All proceeds will benefit LWML MITES.**





## Ways to Give and Support our Ministry:

You may give in person, by mail, online ([www.splcwaco.com](http://www.splcwaco.com)), or drop off in the church mailbox out front. Also, most financial institutions also offer other options to make it easy for you! You might also consider long-term planned giving or estate gifts. If you have any questions, please call the church office.



We have recently received the renewal information for The Lutheran Witness/Texas Messenger magazine subscriptions in the church office. We kindly ask all members to please respond to the church office with one of the following choices below regarding this magazine subscription no later than Monday, April 14:

- Yes, I would like to continue my subscription
- I DO NOT wish to continue my subscription
- I would like to be added to the subscription list

If you have any questions, please call Cindy in the church office (254.799.3211).



### Men's Club Blood Drive Sunday, April 27 2025

**Watch for a sign-up sheet in the church foyer.**

**Carter Blood Care will set up the Blood Drive Bus in the parking lot.**

**#GIVEFORLIFE**

 [CarterBloodCare.org](http://CarterBloodCare.org) 800-366-2834



# Classes for All Ages

**Please join us for Sunday School and Bible Classes at 9:15 a.m.**

## **Adult Bible Study (Albers Family Life Center)**

Join us as we begin a new study: "Character Matters." This study is designed to begin conversations about the role of Christian character and what is ethical in the life of the Christian. Our goal is to be better equipped with what it means to be live our lives faithfully as God's people.

**ASK PASTOR HESSE:** Outside Pastor Hesse's office you will find a box to place any questions that you would like Pastor Hesse to answer during the Adult Bible Study class on Sunday mornings.

## **Men's Bible Class (classroom behind the Parish Hall)**

This class is utilizing the study, *A Longer Look at the Lessons*. With this study, participants will delve deeper into each week's three Scripture readings based on the lectionary in Lutheran Service Book.

## **Ladies Bible Class (Conference Room)**

This class is going through the study, *Significant - A Study of Women in Jesus' Genealogy: Six Ordinary Women, One Extraordinary God*, by Rachel Risner. How can we walk by faith in the face of uncertainty? Six women from the Bible faced their own uncertain times, and yet God used them to build His family. Learn from their stories alongside Rachel Risner as she teaches from the Bible how to be a woman of significance.

## **Simply Loved, Nursery - Fourth Grade Students (classroom)**

Let's get back to the heart of what matters most! Simply help your kids love Jesus and each other. Every activity, song, and visual in *Simply Loved* is designed to help kids remember each lesson long after their children's ministry years. *Simply Loved* curriculum was created with the truth found in 1 John 4:7 in mind which says, 'Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.'

## **Catechesis Training, Fifth Grade (classroom)**

Students in fifth grade meet for Catechesis Training on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. with Deaconess Krahn in the Grades 5 classroom near the church library.

## **Resilient Minds, Sixth - Eighth Grade Students (classroom)**

This class is utilizing the study, *Resilient Minds*. This is a Christ-centered study covering topics such as anxiety, emotions, Christian identity, and resiliency.

## **High School and College Students (Youth Room)**

All high school and college students are invited to join in the Youth Room every Sunday for Bible Class! This will be a great time of study, building relationships, fellowship and fun! *Breakfast is usually served.*

## **Other Bible Study Opportunities:**

### **College Student Evening Bible Study/Fellowship (LDLT - Lutherans Doing Life Together)**

The LDLT group will resume their weekly Bible Study in the Spring. Please contact Karen Shelton or Pastor Hesse with any questions. **This group will NOT MEET on Monday, March 10 - Spring Break.**

### **Ladies Bible Study Group in the Conference Room**

This group meets in the Conference Room on the First and Third Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. They are going through the study, *Golden Fruit: Living the Fruit of the Spirit Through the Best Times of Your Life*. This study will help Christian women put all of their various roles, characteristics, and emotions into perspective. Each session focuses on one fruit of the Spirit and considers how the lives and stories of nine biblical women convey that characteristic.

### **Youth Confirmation/Catechesis Training and Music (grades 5-8)**

Grade 5 meets at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings for Catechesis Training with Dcs. Krahn in the Grade 5 classroom near the church library.

Grades 6-7 meets with Pastor Hesse in the Youth Room.

Grade 8 meets with DCE Josh McNamara in the Conference Room.

**During the Lenten season, the Wednesday evening classes for grades 6-8 will begin at 7:15 p.m., following the 6:00 p.m. Lenten service in the Albers Family Life Center.**

**No Class for grades 6-8 on Wednesday, March 12 - enjoy your Spring Break**

(Children/Youth Music is held on Wednesday evenings in the Music Room from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to allow time for any student/family wishing to participate.)

**There's a place for EVERYONE to be immersed in God's Word and fellowship with other Christians!**



# Children & Youth Activities



## YOUTH MINISTRY EVENT(S):

- ◆ **April 13:** 4<sup>th</sup> Pre-Gathering Bible Study Event at St. Paul Lutheran Church, lunch will be provided. It is expected that all of our youth who are planning to go with us to New Orleans for the upcoming National Youth Gathering be in attendance for this Pre-Gathering Bible study event.
- ◆ **June 8-11:** VBS - Registration and Volunteer Opportunities will be announced soon.
- ◆ **July 18-23:** National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY EVENT(S):

- ◆ **Sunday, April 20** - Join us at 9:15 a.m. on Easter Sunday for an Easter Egg Hunt and a special Easter Bible lesson for our younger students. For students in grades 5-12, they are encouraged to participate in a special Easter event that's more geared towards them. *Come celebrate our risen Lord with us on Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>!*
- ◆ **June 8-11: VBS** - Registration and Volunteer Opportunities will be announced soon.

If you have any questions, please contact Director of Youth & Family Ministry, Josh McNamara, in the church office or see Angel Breton, Chair Children's Ministry; or Hannah Galler, Chair Youth Ministry.

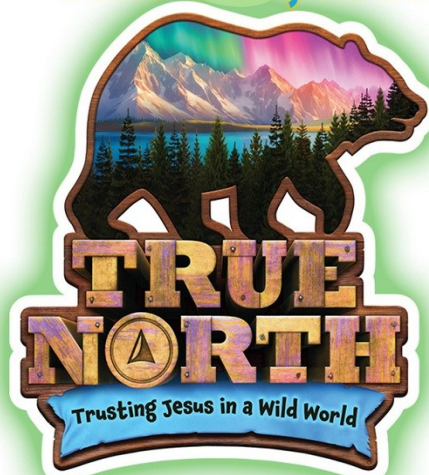


Our 4<sup>th</sup> Pre-Gathering Bible study event will be held in the Albers Family Life Center of St. Paul Lutheran Church on Sunday, April 13, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

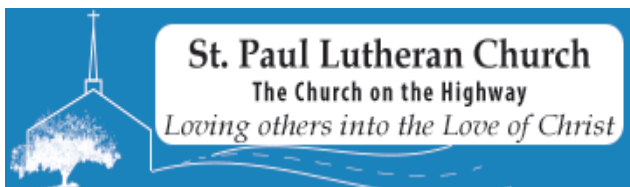
Food and beverages will be provided.

**It is expected that all of our youth who are planning to go with us to New Orleans for the upcoming National Youth Gathering be in attendance for this Pre-Gathering Bible study event.**

**Save the Date for VBS!  
June 8-11, 2025**



**Registration and Volunteer Opportunities coming soon!**



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Waco, Texas 76705  
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April 2025 Edition



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## HOLY WEEK/EASTER SCHEDULE

### April 17, Maundy Thursday Worship • Servant

*Jesus is a servant to his friends when he washes their feet and serves them his body and blood in bread and wine.*

- 11:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary

### April 18, Good Friday Worship • Savior

*Jesus is our Savior, who died on the cross to reunite us with God and one another.*

- 11:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary

### April 20, EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP • Redeemer

*Jesus is our Redeemer, who frees us to live a new life.*

- 7:00 a.m. Easter Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary
- 8:00 a.m. Family Pancake Breakfast (Albers Family Life Center)
- 9:15 a.m. Children's Easter Egg Hunt outdoors/Q&A with Pastor Hesse AFLC
- 10:30 a.m. Easter Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary

SAVIOR, SERVANT, FRIEND