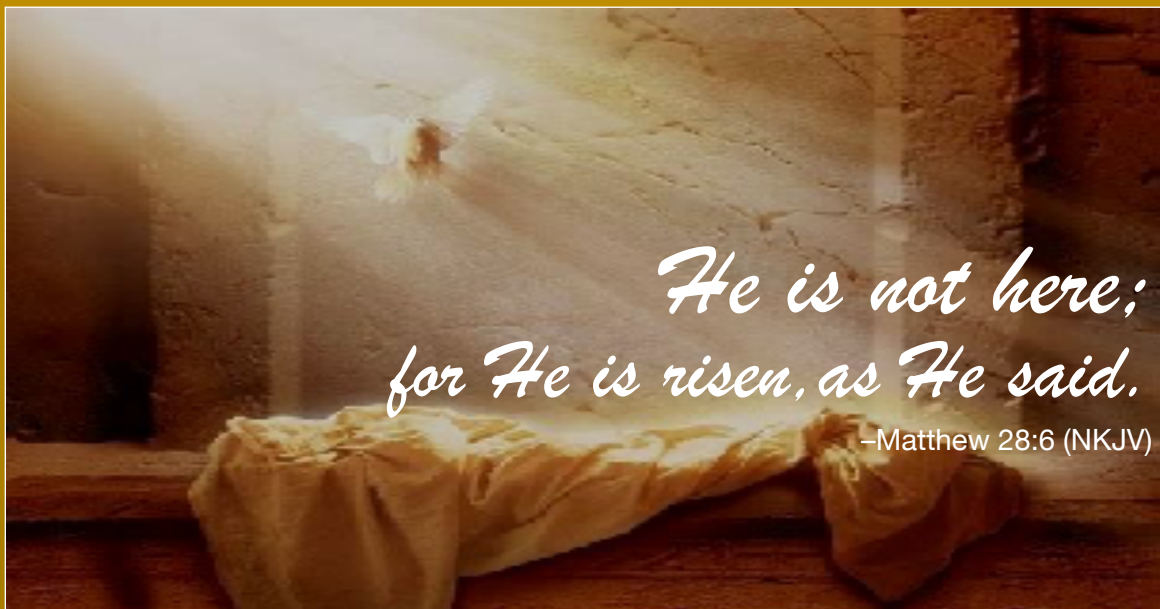


STPAULNOW

April 2025

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
336 W. Main St., Cardington, OH 43315
(419) 864-8369 • office@StPaulNow.org

StPaulNow.org



from Pr. Steve

Pastor's phone: (614) 530-1011; email: pastorsteve@stpaulnow.org

Worship Services streamed live (Sundays, 10:00 AM); videos are posted at stpaulnow.org and on Facebook, Sunday afternoon.

He Is Not Here

That is possibly the most consequential phrase ever uttered in any language. If Jesus actually died (and that is indisputable, given the nature of crucifixion, and the fact that a Roman soldier thrust a spear into his heart), and then went missing from his tomb because he rose from the dead, it changes just about everything. Even if the one who went missing had been just some sort of wicked wizard, it would mean death doesn't have the last word after all. But this resurrection is all the more transformative given what we know of the one who went missing—how he lived and what he taught.

Correction: how he lives and what he teaches—present tense. He only went missing from his grave. He wasn't missing from his followers or from the world for more than a few minutes. People started seeing him almost immediately, and continued to see him in small groups and large (1 Cor 15:3-9) over a period of forty days (Acts 1:3). The hundreds of people who believed Jesus had defeated death weren't convinced by some argument for the plausibility of resurrection, but by their personal encounter with the living Christ. It's still the way people come to believe in him.

Though the risen Jesus Christ is now at the right hand of God the Father, he is also walking earth's city streets and country lanes, searching for men and women, and boys and girls, touching them through his Word, which he conveys through those who believe in him, and through his Holy Spirit, by whom he connects with human hearts.

With St. Paul, I pray for all of you, that God "may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation," that your hearts may be enlightened, that you may experience for yourselves "the greatness of his power toward us who believe," the same great power "that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead" (Ephesians 1:17-20).

The Lord be with you in this holy season.

Holy Week & Easter Schedule



Palm Sunday April 13, 10:00 AM

The Sunday before Easter is called Palm Sunday because it is the day when Jesus entered Jerusalem for the final time, and as he entered, crowds spread palms on his path, indicating the peaceful arrival of the King of Israel.



Holy Thursday April 17, 6:30 PM

Potluck meal and seder-style service at tables in the parish hall. See p. 2 for details. We provide the main meat course, chicken. Bring a side dish or dessert to share. Reservations requested, but if you find you can come at the last minute, come anyway.



Good Friday April 18, 7:00 PM

Service of Shadows in the sanctuary. This is our observance of the Lord's sacrificial death for the sins of the world. The entire service is a reading of the account of Christ's arrest, trial, and crucifixion from the Gospel of John. Candles are extinguished as we finish reading the parts of the story, until the church is shrouded in darkness. We leave the service in silence.

Saturday April 19, 11:00 AM Children's Easter Party and Egg Hunt

for grades Pre-K - 5, all free

• Easter Story • Egg Hunt • Craft • Lunch



Easter Sunday April 20

8:00 AM Early Service (Holy Communion)

8:45-9:45 AM light breakfast

10:00 AM Late Service (Holy Communion)

March Council meeting

Regular meeting, March 11, 6:30 PM

Present: Thomas Bathke (Chairman), Howard Radel (Vice Chairman), Sondra Carey (Secretary), Terry Roberts (Treasurer), Pastor Steve Dennis, Mary Kay Disterdick, Steve Kirk, Terri Roberts.

Council took the following actions:

- Approved the December reports of the Treasurer and Secretary, and received the Pastor's report.
- Received report that new batteries have been installed in the chair lift to the fellowship room.
- Received report that one of our member family's will purchase new green paraments for the altar, lectern, and pulpit.
- Received report that the annual inspection of the church's backflow valve has been scheduled.

Treasurer's Report for February 2025

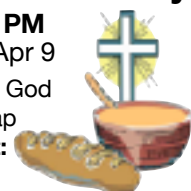
FUNDS	BALANCE 1/31/2025	INCOME February	EXPENSES February	BALANCE 2/28/2025
General Fund	\$11,890.71	\$ 9,783.34	\$12,201.50	\$ 9,472.55
Committed Funds				
Benevolence Fund ¹	\$4,636.08	\$ 150.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,786.08
Richard Renz Fund	\$ 3,173.46	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,173.46
Funeral Fund	\$ 1,154.22	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,154.22
Christian Education Fund ²	\$ 379.26	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 379.26
Memorial Fund	\$ 8,179.31	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 8,179.31
Building Fund	\$10,721.50	\$ 630.00	\$ 0.00	\$11,351.50
Total Committed Funds	\$28,243.83	\$ 780.00	\$ 0.00	\$29,023.83
Total Funds (General + Committed)	\$40,134.54	\$10,563.34	\$12,201.50	\$38,496.38

Lenten Soup Suppers and Bible Study

on Lenten Wednesdays 6:30 PM - 7:45 PM

Two sessions remain this month: Apr 2, Apr 9

Strengthen your spiritual life with the Word of God and fellowship with other believers as we wrap up our study on **Prayer and Commandment: Conversation with God.**



Holy Thursday Service

April 17, 6:30 PM

This is a potluck. We provide the main meat dish, fried chicken. If you can, bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Reservation requested for this potluck meal and seder-style service in the Fellowship Room. But if you see that you can come, even at the last minute, come join us.

You can make a reservation using the volunteer and reservation form available at church, or by emailing the church office (office@stpaulnow.org) stating your name and the number in your party. You can also call the office (419-864-8369) and leave your information in a voicemail.

What is a seder-style service? The Jewish seder is the annual meal God commanded the Israelites to observe in remembrance of their escape from slavery in Egypt. It is called Passover because the final plague that caused the Egyptian Pharaoh to release the Israelites from bondage was the death of the firstborn son in every family in Egypt. An angel swept through the nation and brought that judgment to every home except those on which the blood of a sacrificed lamb was painted on the doorposts, as God had told the Israelites to do. The angel *passed over* those dwellings and did no harm.

After sacrificing the lamb and painting their doorframes with some of its blood, the Israelites were to cook the lamb and eat it, along with unleavened bread and vegetables. Later, God instructed the Israelites to observe Passover each year on the anniversary of their escape from slavery, and the Jews have done so ever since.

The last time Jesus kept the feast is the occasion on which he instituted Holy Communion for his followers. When he broke the bread, he said, "This is my body, given for you." Then he gave them the wine, saying, "The is my blood, shed for you." That meal became, in effect, a new seder.

The word, *seder*, means *order*—the Passover seder is a meal with an order of worship built in. In our Holy Thursday service we attempt to reenact what Jesus did (so far as we can tell) in his Last Supper.

April Worship Leaders

Communion Set up

Sharon Walker and Mary Kay Disterdick

April 6 Assisting Server

Jay Burns

Easter Communion Assisting Servers

8:00 AM Jay Burns 10:00 AM Dylan Goodman

Accompanists

6 Judy Moore
13 Emilee McCabe
20 8:00 Emilee McCabe
10:00 Emilee McCabe
27 Emilee McCabe

Acolytes

6 Avery Thiel
13 William Hale
20 8:00 N/A
10:00 TBA
27 TBA

Lectors

6 Tina Radel
13 Donna Bathke
20 8:00 Marlene Radel
10:00 Sondra Carey
27 Charlene Pace

Prayer Leaders

6 Tina Radel
13 Donna Bathke
20 8:00 Marlene Radel
10:00 Sondra Carey
27 Charlene Pace

Ushers

6 Charlie Seitz and Jay Burns
13 Don Keil and Lonnie Stakey
20 8:00 Howard and Jeff Radel
10:00 Charlie and Tom Bathke
27 Bob Dutt, Jr. and Jay Burns

Cardington Food Pantry Needs

April: Boxed scalloped potatoes, Hamburger Helper

May: Cans of soup, fruit, or vegetables

June: Paper towels, cake/brownie mix or frosting

All months: cereal, flour, meals in a can (e.g., spaghetti, beef stew), soup, white and brown sugar, salt/pepper.

Monetary donations can also be mailed to Cardington Food Pantry, P.O. Box 168, Cardington OH 43315.

Happy April Birthday

2 Kylie Gompf	12 Dick Brown	27 Carol Holsinger
3 Greta Kanagy	Sharon Hall	28 Lynn Goodman
5 Jay Sands	13 Bob McClenathan	Mark Niendam
10 Lindsay Miracle	17 Heather Goodman	30 Marilyn Davis
11 Kaden Skaggs	22 Cyndi Huntzinger	
Isabella Smith	24 Violet Mullins	

Please let us know if we miss anyone.