



Easter More than eggs and rabbits

Easter day is the richest of all for Christians, and the most difficult. We hear the impossible story of Jesus being raised from the dead. Whether in the Mark or the John account, women expect to find a sealed tomb (burial’s finality) and instead face an open and empty one. The cloths that held Jesus’ body are not tossed aside in a heap as thieves would have left them in a rush but are “rolled up” (John 20:7) in the way we fold clothes when rising from bed. The disciples do not simply “see” these things with their eyesight, but they perceive the meaning.

In Mark, a “young man” (16:5) tells the three women they will find Jesus in Galilee, a place he had earlier promised to appear. In John, Mary is alone in the garden weeping. While many aspects of this story deserve notice, the key for us—especially in our time of conflicts between factions that are deadly sure of their interpretations—is to note especially that Jesus says to us as he says to Mary that we are not to “hold on to” (John 20:17) him, clinging to our preconceptions of him. What we knew or know at any moment is bound to be exploded by the image of our beloved changing from dead to alive.

He is “ascending” (John 20:17)—another unfathomable but crucial action because it situates him over and above all that occurs on earth while he is also leading us in human time, in “Galilee.” These accounts take us from a closed rock tomb in a garden to a cosmos full of possibilities that will come about in the presence of the Risen One who will meet us everywhere.

What will we see when we go to “Galilee”? Peter reminds us that in God’s sight all people are acceptable. No one is to belittle or impoverish or harm another, because God has destroyed the shroud that compels nations and peoples to violence. God has swallowed death. God holds death in its own locked tomb, where we behold—as in Paul’s description of his redemption in the epistle reading—that we too are released. Why? The risen Christ appeared and appears again and again, even to Paul. Even to you and me. The appearance is the redemption. It is the very ground of hope and the reason we all have been given courage enough to live in a wise and compassionate way. From “Sunday And Seasons”

In His Service
Pastor Wayne



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Saturday morning on April 6th.....the Northeast Conference WELCA will meet at Trinity Lutheran Church in Chenoa for the Spring Gathering! The hosts will be Servants United Parrish, and they have a great morning planned, beginning at 9:00. Remember how nice it was when we had the Fall Gathering at St. Paul in October? Now come and don't do any work - just enjoy being part of this wonderful group of ladies!

More info on the Kiosk.

Red Bag!

We will continue with Red Bag collections on the 2nd Sunday of each month. April - OSF Smart Meals



TEXT MESSAGES

If you would like to receive text messages with reminders and special announcements, please sign up for the St. Paul Texting Service by completing the following: Send a text to 81010

Text the message: @stpaul210



If you have a confidential prayer request that you would like members of our church prayer chain to pray over, please contact Julie Mehlberg at jjmehlberg@gmail.com or call 815.848.6256. If you

have a prayer request to be added to the worship service prayers, please sign the sheet on the office desk. St. Paul prayer partners stand ready to surround you with prayer!

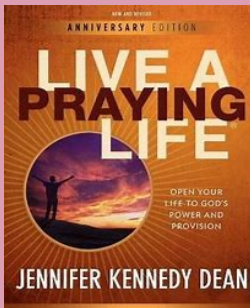


Altar Flowers

If you would like to donate flowers in memory of or honor of someone, please sign your name on the flower chart located on the kiosk. Flowers are \$25. Make

checks payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church, noting "altar flowers" on the memo line. Thank you in advance for your donations.

April Bibles and Bagels meets for study of the previous Sunday's Gospel lesson on Thursday 4-11 at 9:30 at Edinger's.



BIBLE STUDAY AVAILABLE!

This book study helps us discover the difference in having a prayer life and living a praying life! Please join us on April 8 & 22 at 6 pm at the Church.

Books are available on Amazon or contact Tami Putnam. Please join us!

"Live a Praying Life" by Jennifer Kennedy



L.E.O. (Let's Eat Out)

L.E.O. gathers St. Paul members and friends on the third Wednesday of each month to enjoy dinner out. However, due to Lent we will not be meeting again to eat out until April 17. We will meet on Wednesday, April 17 at 5:30 pm at La Mex!



WELLNESS SUNDAY

Health and Wellness Sunday is the third Sunday of each month. Mary Leach or one of our parish nurses will be on hand before and after worship to check blood pressure, blood sugar, and to help with questions about your health.



REBECCA CIRCLE

Rebecca Circle will be at 1:30 on Thursday, April 18 in the fellowship hall. Hostess is Jean Harrison, and the lesson from Gathering magazine will be lead by Rosemary Sutton. The lesson "Food" is the 4th in the series of Scripture and Nature: Teachers of Faith.



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Our food pantry collections for the month of April are Canned Fruit and Cereal. Thanks for being the hands and feet of Jesus in our community!

Graduate Names: Don't Forget.....if you have an 8th grade, high school or college student graduating this year, please be sure to submit their name to the office by April 21!

Sunday Pastoral Schedule

April 7 - Pastor Wayne
April 14 - Pastor Wayne
April 21 - Pastor Wayne
April 28 - Pastor Wayne

Birthdays

Julie Mehlberg	4/1
Michelle Harms	4/6
Roger Schuler	4/8
Darla Dixon	4/13
Sam Lambert, jr	4/16
Gerald Buckler	4/17
Jimm Edinger	4/23
Blayne Dixon	4/27
Louis Kehinde	4/28



St. Paul Lutheran Church
210 Deerfield Rd
Pontiac, IL 61764
Phone: 815-842-2095
E-Mail: www.stpaulpontiac.org
[Facebook.com/stpaulpontiac](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulpontiac)

Newsletter & Announcements

Please send any announcements or articles for the February newsletter to stpaulpontiac@gmail.com by April 26.

Announcements for the bulletin are due by 9 am Thursday mornings.

April Church Events

April 6 - Fellowship Hall reserved
April 7- Worship Service @ 10 am
April 8 - LAPL Bible Study @ 6 pm
April 11 - Bibles and Bagels @ 9:30 am @ Edinger's
April 14 - Worship Service @ 10 am (Red Bag Sunday)
April 15 - Council Meeting @ 5:30 pm
April 17 - LEO @ La Mex @ 5:30 pm
April 18 - Rebecca Circle @ 1:30 pm
April 21 - Worship Service @ 10 am
April 22 - LAPL Bible Study @ 6 pm
April 23 - Deadline for Graduate's names
April 28 - Worship Service @ 10 am

April
SHOWERS
BRING
May
FLOWERS