



# St. Paul's Lutheran Church Newsletter

506 W. 9th St. Coffeyville, KS 67337

April 2021 Vol. 28, No. 4

## STAFF

- **Intentional Interim Minister**  
Rev. Rocky Mease
- **Organist**  
Phyllis Jenkins
- **Church Secretary**
- **Custodian**  
Mitchell Lakey

## CONGREGATIONAL

### OFFICERS

- **President**  
Craig Eike
- **Vice-President**  
Art Peterman
- **Secretary**
- **Treasurer**  
Sharilyn Kastler
- **Elder Chairman**  
Mark Krenz
- **Trustee Chairman**  
Tom Miesner
- **Stewardship Chairman**  
Bill Moore
- **Education Chairman**  
Karen Wilson
- **Evangelism Chairman**  
Andy Krenz

**Church Office Number:**  
620-251-2927

**Email Addresses:**

Pastor.splccoffeyville

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## Upcoming Opportunities for Learning, Service, and Fellowship:

Join us in the church basement every Sunday at 9:00am for a socially-distanced Bible Class with Pastor Mease.

Children's Sunday School is coming soon!

Join us for Holy Week services:

Maundy Thursday at 7:00pm

Good Friday at 7:00pm

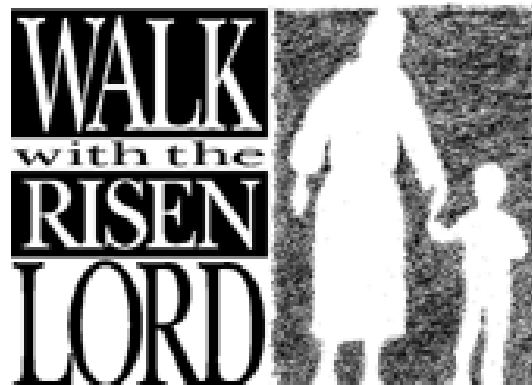
Easter Sunday Divine Service at 10:30am

Easter Egg Hunt to follow

St. Paul's Work Day—Saturday, April 3rd 1:00-5:00pm  
(Rain date: April 10th) Help us beautify the outside of the church and there will be pizza!

Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord—Join the Men's Ensemble each Sunday after church or the Choir Chimes at 9:45am each Sunday!

Looking for a part-time employment opportunity? You could be St. Paul's church secretary! Lisa Krenz will even train you through all the ins and outs of this fulfilling and flexible job. Be all you can be—be the church secretary!



First Quarter Report  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Coffeyville, Kansas  
March 10, 2021

**Process Tasks and work of the Interim Pastor**

**Entering**

With the help of the members of St. Paul's, I was able to make a quick and comfortable transition from Topeka to Coffeyville. The parsonage and all the loaned additions make for a very nice home.

My goal on Entering is to provide a less anxious presence and keep my eyes and ears open. Early One-On-One visits were very emotional and revealed some deep wounds that need healing. The visits in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week and beyond tended to be more social or people coming with surveys completed and wanting to go through them. Most of those surveys were forward thinking (as opposed to looking back at past events/issues).

I spoke with members who loved Pastor Fields and those who very much did not like Pastor Fields' behavior/manner. I also spoke with members who believed that Pastor Fields was a great preacher (most thought this), a great teacher (some thought this) and enjoyable to be around. All granted that Pastor Fields and his family had issues, but there is a divide over how serious these issues were. Those who liked Pastor Fields felt as though he was run off and not given a fair chance.

**Evaluating**

This division of opinion in the congregation gives us the opportunity to step into an honest difference of opinion and learn more creative ways to respond to one another. This step will no doubt cause anxiety to rise. That is my intent. A rise in our anxiety gives us to opportunity to step back and see how anxiety reduces our creativity.

I will also teach (in the months to come) some basic principles of System Theory. A basic tenant of System Theory is that all parties of a conflict play a role. A more anxious reaction results in a lack of creative thinking and expressions of anger. Anxious people tend to blame others for the conflict and fail to see how they have contributed to the interaction. When we blame others we take away our own power to make improvements on how the system functions. A less anxious response (which actually changes brain chemistry) results in more creative thinking, appropriate expressions of feelings and learning how "I" can move differently in the system.

Another "thread" that I think we need to pull is what people know about the departure of Pastor Rosburg. Secrets, known and unknown have a lasting power. Pastor Rosburg has left the ministry, divorced his wife and married a man (at least that is what I have put together so far from what I have been told). I know some knew about this and some didn't. I considered not putting this in a written report, as it involves a former pastor. But I believe in this case, the secret is more damaging than a lapse in confidentiality. In our process we will look at what happened, who knew what and when and what impact this has had on the congregation and individual members.

**Connecting with Denomination**

This report sent to Circuit Visitor and District President  
The Elders and I attend a District Workshop on Partnerships  
I am attending Winkel's when possible

**Focusing and assuming responsibility** (beginning)

**Exiting and Evaluate** (on schedule for December exiting)

## Interim Process

One on One visits with 50 members have been conducted  
Interim Task Force Members have been chosen and first meeting set

## Developmental Tasks of the Congregation

We are looking at the 5 Developmental Tasks in the Sunday morning Bible Class: How individuals in the Bible experienced these Developmental Tasks.

## Other Significant Events

Worship attendance was above 50 two Sundays ago  
Sunday School, CIA (Youth Group) and Easter Egg hunt are getting organized because of conversations had in One on One visits

Bible Class is being sent by Zoom to anyone who wants to watch, listen and participate in that way. A new microphone has helped on line hearers to hear better.

We will begin to Zoom Sunday Morning Worship March 14. We will use the same Zoom invitation for both Bible Class and Worship. You will need to sign back on after Bible Class to see the Worship Service. If you want a copy of the Zoom invitation email me at: [rockywmease@gmail.com](mailto:rockywmease@gmail.com).

COVID is beginning to have less a hold on the congregation. Many of our 65+ have had one or both vaccinations. We continue to socially distance, wear mask and practice good sanitation. We also are wanting to reach out to those who do not have the vaccination and prefer to avoid large groups with Zoom.

In March we will baptize 3 individuals and receive 6 new members. We hope to set up a confirmation class soon.



*I know that my Redeemer lives!*

*What comfort this sweet sentence gives!*

*He lives, he lives, who once was dead: He lives,  
my ever living Head! He lives to bless me with his  
love; He lives to plead for me above; He lives my hungry  
soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need. He lives to grant  
me rich supply; He lives to guide me with his eye; He lives to  
comfort me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's complaint. He  
lives to silence all my fears; He lives to wipe away my tears; He lives  
to calm my troubled heart; He lives all blessings to impart. He lives,  
my kind, wise, heavenly friend; He lives and loves me to the end; He  
lives, and while he lives, I'll sing; He lives, my Prophet, Priest,  
and King! He lives and grants me daily breath; He lives, and I  
shall conquer death; He lives my mansion to prepare; He lives to  
bring me safely there. He lives, all glory to His name! He  
lives, my savior, still the same; Oh, sweet the joy this  
sentence gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!*



## *Stewardship Thoughts from the LCMS*

Our Father in heaven sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. His atoning sacrifice is the first fruits of all the dead, a pleasing aroma to His Father, so that His perfect life and death count for all who believe in Him. He claimed us as His own children in Holy Baptism. He sustains and strengthens our faith with His Holy Word and His Body and Blood.

As new creatures, who have put on Christ, we bear good fruit. We do the good works prepared for us, which He makes known to us in His Word. By faith then, trusting in the Word of God, we do what he says because He does not lie and always keeps His promises. For “without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” (Heb. 11:6).

And so the Lord promises: “Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine” (Prov. 3:9-10). How do we honor the Lord with the wealth that God has given us in His generosity? By giving generously to those whom the Lord has called us to love and support your family, your society, and your church. And His promise is that, in so doing, you will never lack.

A common counterpoint is: “But that’s from the Old Testament!” Our Lord Jesus Himself gives us similar promises in the New Testament. He says, at the conclusion of the parable of the talents: “For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance” (Matt. 25:29).

And then at the end of the parable of the dishonest manager, he says: “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money” (Luke 16:10–13).

And in His sermon on the mount, he says: “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt. 6:19–21).

We have become conditioned against these promises because of their misuse by the peddlers of the prosperity gospel – the guys on TV who say you get rich by putting God in your debt. And thus, we miss out on the fact that God does reward temporal faithfulness in temporal matters with temporal blessings. It’s no quid pro quo. It’s all from God’s grace and His fatherly divine goodness and mercy. But those Bible passages do in fact say what they say! It’s not the Old Testament’s problem. It’s ours. It is almost as if we have become so jaded against this that we think it a virtue to be stingy with our offerings.

But our Father in heaven still loves to bless those who bless others. He loves to give to those who give freely and generously. In fact, he challenges us to challenge Him: “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need” (Mal. 3:10).

And so, while we don’t give so that we would get, we do receive from the Lord in order to give, and He will bless your giving with more receiving. As St. Paul wrote in Rom. 8:32: “He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”



# April Celebrations

April 1      Jenson Anderson  
 April 2      David Shaw  
 April 4      Sherman Jones  
 April 4      Sue Sanford  
 April 5      Misti Riff  
 April 9      Katrina Wachs  
 April 13     Neila Herold  
 April 13     Nathan Rippe  
 April 15     Gentry Bachman  
 April 19     Autumn Rippe  
 April 20     James Oldham  
 April 24     Erica Gill  
 April 28     Donald James  
 April 28     Tyler Kuehn



April 1      Wade & Susan Lunt  
 April 6      Bill & Rita Moore  
 April 13     Justin & Brenda Taylor  
 April 26     Ron & Ann Neidigh

# April Schedules

<b>Elder:</b> Rick Johnson	<b>Altar Guild:</b> Karen Wilson	
<b>Altar Flowers</b>  April 4 April 11 April 18 April 25	Kim Lofts	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Altar Flower Chart</b></p> <p>The Altar Flower Chart is hanging on the bulletin board in the narthex.</p> <p><b>The price of the two vases of altar flowers is \$25.00, plus a \$2.50 delivery fee &amp; tax.</b></p>

# April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>4</b> <i>The Resurrection of Our Lord</i> 9:00am Bible Class 9:45am Choir Chimes 10:30am Divine Service Easter Egg Hunt After church—Men's Ensemble						
<b>5</b>						
<b>6</b>						
<b>7</b>						
<b>8</b>				<b>1</b> Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm	<b>2</b> Good Friday Service 7:00pm	<b>3</b> Work Day 1:00-5:00pm
<b>9</b>						<b>10</b> Work Day Rain Date
<b>11</b> <i>2nd Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00am Bible Class 9:45am Choir Chimes 10:30am Divine Service After church—Men's Ensemble	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00am Bible Class 9:45am Choir Chimes 10:30am Divine Service After church—Men's Ensemble	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> May Newsletter Deadline	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <i>4th Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00am Bible Class 9:45am Choir Chimes 10:30am Divine Service After church—Men's Ensemble	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	