

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH

May 2024 NEWSLETTER

100 N FREMONT ST | LEWISTON, MN 55952



THINGS TO REMEMBER FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

Church:

May 9th Ascension Day
May 19th Pentecost Sunday
May 26th Trinity Sunday

Secular:

May 2nd National Day of Prayer
May 5th Cinco de Mayo
May 12th Mother's Day
May 18th Armed Forces Day
May 27th Memorial Day

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Praise Worship & 'All Church Sunday School'

May 12, 9:00 am

Coffee and treats
in the Fellowship Hall.



JOY WORSHIP
'Pentecost Party'
Sunday, May 19, 9:00 am

Office Hours:

T-Th
8:15 am-12:15 pm

Call if you have any
announcements or
prayer requests.

507-523-2643

Pastor's Corner

**O Lord, give strength to your people;
give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.**

--Psalm 29:11

"Pastor, how is so-and-so doing?"

You might not realize it, but this can be a difficult question for me to answer.

Sometimes I don't know—perhaps I haven't seen that person in a while and don't have an update. If that's the case, I'll say that. Sometimes I do know, and know what I can share, and I will tell you what I can. But sometimes I do know but I can't tell you what I know, because it is (or might be) private. It is better for me to say nothing, or something very general, than to say something I should not.

As a pastor, I am bound to keep confidential what is confided to me, except in certain situations. (If you're interested in more information about what those situations are, please come talk to me.) However, I can't always tell if what you say to me is something you are confiding to me in private or if it is general information that is public knowledge. When and how you tell me can give me clues, but because I have to err on the side of caution and confidentiality, I will keep my mouth shut unless I know I don't have to.

Confidentiality is also important among the congregation as we actively "be the church" to one another. If someone trusts you enough to share their challenges with you (health or otherwise), keep that trust by only sharing if you are told it is OK to share with others, and that includes sharing the information with me as your and their pastor. While it's helpful for me to hear things that are truly public knowledge, but haven't made their way to me yet, it's also not appropriate to share private knowledge with me without permission.

Given all this, there are some helpful notes about how all of this connects to our prayer list and ministry:

When you share something with me, particularly if it relates to a health concern for you or a loved one, please let me know directly if this is public information or something that you wish me to keep in confidence.

Tell me directly if you want your name on the prayer list. I try to have express permission from those listed on our prayer list, especially as our list is included in our newsletter and names are often spoken aloud during worship which streams on Facebook.

Please understand there are many reasons why someone would choose not to be on the prayer list. This is one reason we pray for all experiencing health concerns in a general way.

Please do not assume that telling someone else in the congregation is the same as telling me.

If you are, or know you are going to be, hospitalized, please tell me directly, or have a family member do so. If you wish me to, I am happy to come visit you in the hospital, or come pray with you before an outpatient procedure, but I need to know that it is happening. If you do not want me to know, that is certainly up to you as well.

Pastoral confidentiality can become a dangerous and murky area if not handled carefully and well. If I am to gain and retain your trust, I need to be extremely careful what information I share. Thank you for your patience as I repeatedly ask if information can be shared. And when you ask how so-and-so is doing, please understand why often you will get only a very general answer.

I give thanks for the many ways we care for one another in body and spirit.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Tami Groth

text or call 507-722-0256 Email pastor.lewiston.mn@gmail.com

Church Council Meeting Minutes from April 16, 2024

St. Paul's Church Council Meeting....April 16, 2024

Those in attendance were: President Jeff Nelson, Crystal Corey, Rich Tucker, Ann Lubinski, LeAnn Jacobson, Jim Olson, and Diane Rislow. Absent: Pastor Tami

The meeting was called to order by President Jeff at 630pm with opening prayer read by Diane Rislow.

Motion made to approve the Secretary's report by Crystal and seconded by Diane. Motion carried. (special thank you for Diane Rislow for writing up the March minutes in Ann's absence).

Dianne Rislow came to the meeting to discuss Food For Families sponsorship in May, 2024. Crystal motioned to accept the opportunity for our church to sponsor May 22, 2024 dinner in St. Charles at the Community Center. We are asked to provide the meal and donate \$300.00 cash for the bagged grocery items given to those who attend. The event serves from 4pm to 530pm and is open to all. We would need 6 to 8 church volunteers as well. Dianne Rislow will chair the group and ask for volunteers. There will be a free will offering basket set out for our members to donate towards the mission meal. The motion was 2nd and approved. If anyone is interested to attend the April 24th meal are encouraged to attend at 4pm. Dianne has been in contact with the Lewiston Moravian Church for their interest as well. A suggested meal was to have sloppy joe, chips, pickles, salads and dessert. Dianne and her committee will decide on all of the details and report to the congregation.

Committee Reports:

MUTUAL MINISTRY – Jeff reported they have not had an opportunity to meet but will soon.

WORSHIP – met on April 10th and Pastor Tami has planned out the summer services by asking members for their input to the Sermon message. Ideas can be put in the offering plate or a separate basket during the next few weeks. The church is planning on the outdoor service to be delivered during Heartland Days, with or without special music. More information to follow in the church bulletin as we get closer to the date.

Graduation Recognition Sunday will be April 28th. There are 6 youth graduating.
Sunday School Recognition Sunday will be May 12.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT – working on a date to resurface the back parking lot for this spring or summer. Continuing to have some issues with the flickering of lights in the sanctuary. Jon and Rich will work together and find a contractor who could fix it. Current price given was \$19,250.00 via Horman Electric.

PARISH ED/SPY – Diane discussed the fundraisers the youth have done which were well received. Discussing the possibility of bringing back VBS and to possibly having a one day event. Confirmation student will wait to be confirmed until next year. The youth were instrumental in purchasing items for the Bury the Altar Campaign. The youth mission trip will be traveling to St. Louis this summer. The following Sunday upon their return, the youth will share their experiences on their trip. Senior Recognition will be April 28th. We have 6 graduating seniors. Fellowship time will be done by the S.P.Y. youth.

The S.P.Y. will be sponsoring a rummage sale to raise money for the trip on June 20th and 21st during Heartland Days. Asking for items from the congregation to donate.

CALL COMMITTEE: Will meet on April 17th to discuss the steps to take forward.

The Fischer Grant Report – the ramp in the front of the church had the cement raised to help keep water from entering the basement. Final railings have been installed. Many thanks to those who helped with this project.

Church Council Meeting Minutes from April 16, 2024 (cont)

OUTREACH & EVANGELISM – Jim explained our church members helping at the Ruby's Pantry held once a month in St. Charles. The members will be helping for the June 22 Food for Families in St. Charles at the community center. Anyone interested please let a member of the council know. We can use your help.

The September backpack fundraiser will again be done by assisting with items to fill some backpacks for the students attending the Lewiston school system.

Discussion was given from President Jeff in regards to the newly formed Cardinal Foundation club which is to help the local school for field trips, speakers, etc. The club will be having a fundraiser on May 17th. The fish fry will be held at the Legion in Lewiston. Jeff also has raffle tickets if interested.

PASTORS REPORT: Pastor Tami was unable to attend but furnished us with her report. She will be on vacation on May 5th as well as the week prior. Also, plans on vacation on August 4th including August 11th.

She will continue with her Continuing Education through courses offered.
Working on a current member directory/contact information for the congregation.

Administration Professional Day is April 24th. Many thanks to our own Linda Ballard who provides us with so much behind the scenes activity. **THANK YOU!**

Our next church council meeting will be Tuesday, May 14th at 630pm.
Motion to adjourn the meeting was Leann with a second from Diane. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann M. Lubinski
Secretary

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AT ST. PAUL'S

THERE ARE SIGN-UP SHEETS ON THE NARTHEX TABLE FOR THE FOLLOWING:



USHERS



Altar
Guild



OFFERING
COUNTERS

Thinking of You!

Would you be willing to take a minute to write a card (or color a picture) and send it to one of our elders? The thing that I share when I get to visit our elders who can't always make it to worship is that, "Just because you can't come to church on Sunday, doesn't make you any less a part of the church. We get to come to you!" Would you join me in sending a written greeting as a church-together?

Illa Musser
Speltz Estates
232 S. Fremont St.
Lewiston, MN 55952

Renata Rislow
Bremmer Suites Good Shepherd
803 Home St.
Apt \$108 or PO Box 747
Rushford, MN 55971

Dick Schultz
9 Williams Street
Lewiston, MN 55952

Darlene Ferguson
22279 Enterprise Valley Dr.
Lewiston, MN 55952

MAY ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



Anniversary: Tim & Nancy Rislow (5/1 for 14 yrs); Dennis & Judy Hovelson (5/3 for 44 yrs).

Birthdays: Rhett Randall (5/1); Alexia DuPreez (5/3); Brad Haagenson, Dave Mahlke, Jeremy Neeck, & Elise Sommer (5/5); Kent Erdmann (5/9); Vicki Clark (5/12); Haylee Reps (5/23) / Christopher Zeisel (5/24)

Prayers for those needing strength:

Robin Thelen (Tony Thelen's mom): accident recovery;

Darlene Ferguson: general health issues

Illa Musser: general health issues

April Hovelson: dealing with MS (daughter-in-law of Judy & Dennis Hovelson)

Mark Smith: undergoing cancer surgery & chemotherapy

Kurt Diekrager: cancer diagnosis

If you want to add to this Prayer List, please inform the church office at 523-2643 or email stpaullewisston@gmail.com.





Welcome
to our Church

New Members:

Abigail Hansen (recent high school graduate)

Karen McNally & Steve Beeman

Mika Miller (to marry Reece Riebel in September)

IMPORTANT CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE



On **Sunday, May 5th**, Rev. Barb Streed, who is the Assistant to the Bishop, will be at St. Paul's to lead worship for us in Pastor Tami's absence. While here, Pastor Barb will lead a town hall meeting with our congregation. This is the next step in the call process, and we need and want your input.

We have completed the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) which is given to potential candidates as their first exposure to who our congregation is. The whole church has had an opportunity to answer surveys for several weeks and also on-line as to what we feel is important at St. Paul's in going forward. The MSP also talks about other important information like St. Paul's history, our community needs, and what makes this area of Minnesota a great place to live. Pastor Barb will go over the MSP with all of you. This will be a time that your questions can be answered, and we can talk things over.

Pastor Tami has been our bridge-to-serve pastor since October. If Pastor Tami and St. Paul's feel that we are a good fit for each other, we can call Pastor Tami to serve here. We still need to do the call process whether Pastor Tami stays or if we need to look for a new pastor.

We need a good turnout for this important process for our church. The Call Committee wants to have your help in the search for a spiritual leader for St. Paul's. Pray for God's guidance as we move forward as a congregation.

If you have questions, please contact anyone on the call committee.

Hope to see you on May 5th!

Corrine DuPreez, Cole Kreidermacher, Melissa Nelson, Beth Olson, Ann Riebel, and Diane Rislow

*Check out the poster notice.
Stop by for a deal and a visit!*



May 27, 2024

Check your local listings for cemetery programs regarding place and times. It's a good time to reflect and visit with others. For all they have sacrificed, it's

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

**RUMMAGE
SALE**

Friday, May 10
7:30 AM - 6:00 PM
Saturday, May 11
7:30 AM-12:00 PM

Morton Building
Winona County Fairgrounds
Saint Charles, MN

Fresh baked goods, clothing, household items, white elephant,
and many more treasures

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT MISSIONS
Donation by Thrivent Financial

St. Paul's Evangelical Church

Summer 2024

Sunday Sermon Lotto

**Help us prepare for a summer of worship services
centered on scriptures submitted by YOU!**

Now through Pentecost (May 19th) submit as many
scripture passages / stories as you want and on Pentecost
we will draw out a scripture for each Sunday this summer.

Sunday Sermon Lotto for the Summer!

Rather than following the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) or using a sermon series, this summer we are giving you a chance to decide what scriptures we preach on. Place your scripture request (can be chapter and verse or it can just be a common name of a Bible story or enough text to for Pastor to find the passage you are thinking of) in the box provided in the Narthex before the start of Worship on Pentecost Sunday May 19th, and we will draw out a passage for each Sunday of the summer until each Sunday has an assigned scripture. Submit as many passages as you would like throughout this month. Have questions? Reach out to Pastor Tami.

Come Celebrate!

*Mika Miller and Reece Riebel, new members of our church,
are getting married at St. Paul's on September 28, 2024.*

*Come and join in the celebration in honor of them during coffee hour, right
after church service on*

June 9th

All are welcome!

We will have a gift for them from St. Paul's!

Ruby's PANTRY

One way St. Paul's has been reaching out to our greater community is by volunteering at Ruby's Pantry at Brookwood Park, 272 West First Street, in St. Charles on the second Thursday of each month between 4 – 5:30. The next event is May 9. Volunteers are asked to come whenever it is convenient for you anytime between 2:30 and 6 to help set up, load cars, or clean up. The donated food is set up in the parking lot where cars drive through with their trunk open stopping at a designated point to have volunteers place the food in the trunk. Check with Jeff Nelson, John and Mary Botten, Betty Wirt, Dennis and Judy Hovelson, or Dianne Rislow if you are interested in helping or want more information.

From their website: Ruby's mission is to activate people in being alert to the needs of others and to be proactive in encouraging faith, showing friendship, and meeting the tangible needs of neighbors, friends, and strangers regardless of race, religion, or ethnicity. Ruby's Pantry is for ANYONE who eats! There is no income or residency requirement and Ruby's Pantry is for anyone looking to extend their monthly grocery budget. Each guest donates a \$25 donation and receives an abundance of grocery items. Ruby's Pantry is not government-funded and is a 501 C3. Each donation is used to cover operational costs like trucking, gas, and warehouse staff. All of the food is donated by corporate food donors making it possible to reach more families each month at locations across Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, and Iowa.



Thank you to the new and long-term dedicated volunteers from St. Paul's who help make Ruby's Pantry run smoothly each month!

We look forward to seeing new volunteers in the future!

You can find out more at Ruby's Pantry St. Charles Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100092932622039> and at the Ruby's Pantry Website: <https://rubyspantry.org/>

St. Paul's is Sponsoring Food for Families



Food for Families is a community-based free food resource program and community meal that is available to all residents in our surrounding area. It has been based in St. Charles for many years and is sponsored and facilitated by local churches, service organizations as well as concerned citizens.

St. Paul's is sponsoring Food for Families on May 22 at St. Charles Community Center – City Hall. This is a one-month commitment per year, or, if we choose, we could partner with another church for an additional month.

The role of sponsoring churches is to make a cash donation to help with the cost of the food provided, supply 6 – 8 volunteers anytime between 3 and 6, and furnish a light dinner for those who come. Volunteers will help set up the tables, carry in food, help shoppers, and clean up. Other volunteers will set up the meal in the kitchen, greet our guests, and serve the food.

This allows us to help lift those among us who might be challenged to provide food for our families and provide a time to socialize with new friends and neighbors. We are all dependent on each other for our well-being.

Please let Dianne Rislow know if you are interested in volunteering or helping with the light meal on Wednesday, May 22. A bowl is set up in the Narthex for donations. Checks can be made out to St. Paul's with Food for Families written on the memo line.



St. Paul's had a beautiful service to celebrate our 2024 Graduates!

Pictured below (from L to R) Pastor Tami; Avrianna Bambenek; Abby Hansen; Abby Rasmussen; Morgan Miller; Owen Sommer; TJ Rasmussen; Jake Rasmussen; and Diane Rislow.

During worship there was a special blessing when family and friends came up to stand with the graduates to show their love and support. We ended the celebration with a coffee fellowship. Don't forget to come back often to visit your church family. Congratulations and God's blessings to you all!



Triton Peshon (son of Twyla Peshon) has left for basic training in the Air Force National Guard at Lackland, TX. He will graduate from basics on June 13th and will remain in Texas for tech school until the holidays. After June 13th, he will be able to receive letters and cards while still in Texas and his address is listed below. Please keep in touch with him over the next several months as he moves forward within the military. Stay well and strong, and know that God is always with you.

AB Peshon, Triton, D
320 TRS / FLT 392
1320 Truemper Street
JBSA Lackland, TX 78236-6407



S.P.Y. NEWS



June 20th 8 am—5 pm and June 21st 8 am—2 pm

DO YOU HAVE ITEMS THAT YOU NO LONGER WANT??? DONATE THEM TO ST. PAUL'S ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE!!!

Please do NOT bring these items:

Items with holes, tears, stains or mildew

Mattresses, box springs, water beds or sleeper sofas

Baby furniture/equipment

Carpeting

Consumer product recalled items

Computer monitors

Televisions

Large exercise equipment (such as treadmills, etc.)

Gas powered lawn mowers

Large appliances (refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, microwaves, etc.)

Household chemicals (paint, cleaning supplies, etc.)

Health and beauty products (liquids, razors, etc.)

You can start bringing items to the church basement through, June 19th.

All profit will benefit our youth program. Thank you so much!

May 2024

We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

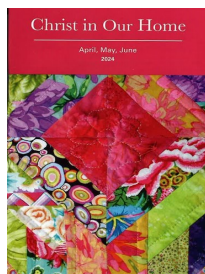
Counters		Ushers / Communion Assist	Communion Set-up
5	Beth Olson	Tara, Cole, Austin Kreidermacher	Ann Lubinski
12	Leann Jacobson	Ann Lubinski	
19	Mary Botten	Mary & Dave Mueller	Dainne Rislow
26	Beth Olson	Brian & Elin Rislow	

AV: Jeff & Dexter Nelson **Altar Guild:** Dianne Rislow

Dates for your calendar

- May 1: 6:30 pm Confirmation Class
- May 5: 9:00 Traditional Service w/communion. Pastor Barb Streed. (Last Sunday School until the fall)
- May 8: 6:00 pm SPY Meeting
- May 12: 9:00 am Praise Worship & "All Church Sunday School"
- May 14: 6:30 pm Church Council meeting
- May 15: 6:30 pm Confirmation Class. (Last one until the fall.)
- May 19: 9:00 am JOY Service w/communion. "Pentecost Party"
- May 22: June newsletter articles due.
- May 26: 9:00 am Traditional Service. Memorial Day Weekend.
- May 30: June newslettter finalized and mailed.

Don't forget the new edition of "Christ in Our Home".



Pick up a copy or two for your home devotion or to give to one of our shut-ins. This is a busy time of the year with gardening, graduations, and plans for weekend get-a-ways. These quick daily devotions can keep you grounded in faith; directs your next steps; and give you peace of mind. God's word is true, dependable, and never fails us. If you can't make it to church, consider getting one of these books for your personal devotion. (But we really would like to see you).