

HOLY WEEK



As we are in the last few weeks of the Lenten journey, we look forward to Holy Week, the week before Jesus' arduous suffering, death, and resurrection. He knew very well of this fate and predicted it three times to his disciples.

The Pharisees were feeling the pressure. After Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead, the Pharisees became uneasy that He was gaining more and more followers. They feared the Romans would come and take away both their temple and their nation...and threaten their very power and authority. They decided it was better for the one man to perish rather than the whole nation, and they sought to arrest and kill Him.

On the day of the Passover Festival Jesus came to town as a king being blessed and revered, fulfilling the scripture, "Do not be afraid Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt." This celebration further enraged the Pharisees and to top it off, Jesus told them they were powerless to quiet the crowd; that if they were to be silenced the rocks themselves would take up the singing and celebration.

Later, at supper, as a servant, Jesus washed his disciples feet. Then fulfilling scripture again, he said to them, "He who shared my bread has turned against me." He was speaking of Judas who was already paid to betray Him.

He was speaking to all of us who put worldly things before God. Throughout the rest of the Lenten season, let us ponder what we truly value. Will we settle for wealth and worldly pleasure, or seek the things that bring us closer to eternal life in the Kingdom of God? Because of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection we are set free. Jesus conquered death by dying and gave us forgiveness and hope of eternal life with Him.

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ELDER & DEACON NEWS

Following the annual meeting, the Elders met with the Deacons in a Leadership retreat to consider “What is God’s Vision for St. Paul’s?” Our vision is our desired future state and one that inspires action. It should encourage unity, create energy, provide purpose, foster risk taking, enhance leadership, promote excellence and sustain ministries.

Based on our vision, we can develop the specific plans required to move St. Paul’s forward and provide our congregation with a short- and long-term focus for the growth of the church. It will allow for the selection of programs and ministries that will support the vision and possible elimination of ones that do not provide needed support.

Vision development will be an ongoing process throughout 2025. It is the intention of the Elders to keep the congregation informed of progress and seek input for vision development. We have planned three town hall meetings (June 1, September 14 and December 7). Each meeting will include updates on vision development, various ministries, and opportunities for questions and input.

It was agreed that prayer guides will be provided each month, and we continue to urge those in the congregation to keep the church and its membership in your prayers. On Ash Wednesday, a daily prayer guide was provided that will carry us through Easter. On April 26 there will be a prayer time held at the church beginning at 9am.

We encourage you to contact an Elder if you have any questions, comments or suggestions as we develop a pathway for a healthy future for St. Paul’s, and minister to expand His Kingdom in our community and around the world.

Town Hall Meeting Dates to Save

June 1

September 14

December 7

FROM PASTOR MARC’S DESK

Journey to the Cross

I have truly enjoyed our “Journey to the Cross” so far this Lenten season. This season is a time of intentional reflection—an opportunity to follow in His steps (1 Peter 2:21). We remember what Jesus has done for us and humbly receive the benefits of His grace. But we are also called to follow His example. Though it’s not an easy path, it is our calling.

The key to following in His steps is trusting our faithful Creator. My prayer is that, during this season, we will grow in that trust. Let’s learn from Jesus—how He lived, how He walked, and what He accomplished for us. And as we follow in His steps, let’s invite others to follow Him as well. Who in your life needs to know Jesus? Who can you invite to a Lenten service, Good Friday, Easter, or even the Easter Egg Hunt? Let’s walk this journey together—encouraging one another and reaching out to those who have yet to believe.

"For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in His steps." – 1 Peter 2:21

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The program for our April 9th meeting will be a presentation from Nurses for Newborns. Nurses for Newborns provide compassionate care, support, and resources to expecting mothers, babies, and their families. All services are provided at no cost to those they serve. Our meeting will start at 11:30 am. Please come and join us and bring a sack lunch.



We will also be starting our Mother's Day baby day project on April 9. There will be a donation box placed in the welcome center along with a list of needs. Items needed include diapers of all sizes, pull ups, diaper wipes, baby lotion, A&D ointment, Vaseline, and teething rings. Items can be donated until May 14. Donations should not be gift wrapped, and all items provided will be dedicated on May 14 at the Women's Fellowship Spring Ingathering.

Mark your calendars! On May 2 Women's Fellowship will be hosting our annual Mother Daughter Banquet at St. Paul's. Stay tuned for additional information on this joyful event.

MISSION NEWS

Support for Restore STL

As the Mission Team developed a final budget for 2025, we decided to provide support to Restore St. Louis (RSL). RSL promotes a network of Christian ministries that desire to show God's love to the poor, widows, orphans, immigrants and refugees of St. Louis. It is under the oversight of New City Fellowship of St. Louis, which is a group of seven ministries, each led by their own board. The ministries are: The Freedom School (Pre-K to 8), Health Connection, Harambee Youth Training, Firm Foundation Tutoring, Workday, Umetulisha (food ministry), and Inside Out Prison Ministry. By supporting these ministries, St. Paul's can help be a force multiplier in bringing God's love and His Word to people right here in our own community. Learn more at <https://restorestlouis.org/>.

Big News from South Africa!

We recently received word from Cricket Meyer regarding exciting developments for Lingomso Ministries. You may remember that we were praying for a new building project Cricket had begun to support the great needs of the community in which she works. Well, February brought exciting developments. As Cricket puts it, "God gave me a very clear NO" regarding a building she had been considering. Instead, God led her to a smaller and less expensive building. With funds already raised she was able to make a cash offer, which was accepted! While waiting on closing on the property, an architect will develop plans for necessary modifications. Over the next months, the building will be renovated and outfitted, with the goal of being ready for the 2026 school year. Cricket says, "this early childhood development center and community center will stand as a beacon of light in the community, reflecting and sharing the love of Jesus with all who enter her doors." There will be a special collection this summer in conjunction with Cricket's visit to St. Paul's on July 13.

Lingomso
Future
Center



YOUTH NEWS

Presidents Day Retreat – February 15 & 16, 2025

Ten of St. Paul's youth, along with youth from Bethesda, Wellsprings, and Quest, went to Pinecrest Resort and Conference Center to participate in a 6th - 12th grade retreat. Approximately 70 students and 20 adults attended this cold but inspirational event.

The retreat consisted of four worship/teaching sessions, two free time sessions, meals, a snack and a (short) night's sleep. The teaching theme for the camp was "In Focus," and the theme verse for the weekend was Hebrews 12:2.

- Session 1 we talked about seeing Jesus Clearly – Who Jesus is and why he matters. Matthew 16:13-16
- Session 2 was about removing our distractions, which encouraged us to be mindful of things that keep us away from Jesus. Luke 10:38-42
- Session 3 on Jesus' call to follow him whole heartedly. Matthew 4:18-22
- Session 4 was fixing our eyes on Jesus and keeping him as the center of our lives. Hebrews 12:1-2

The final challenge for the weekend was to live with Jesus in focus at home, school, and beyond.

The retreat was a very positive experience for all who attended. Students strengthened connections with each other and reconnected to worship. We had an exceptional group of students who were fully engaged throughout the weekend.



CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

JAM continues to experience growth as we welcome new children on Wednesday nights. We are hopeful that this growth continues and those that have visited will return and continue to attend. Everyone seemed to enjoy “Miraculous,” which gave us the opportunity to learn about some of the miracles Jesus performed involving water, with an overall ocean theme. Next up will be “Full Bloom” which will allow us to learn more about the Easter story during the month of April. If you have any friends or family ages 4-11 invite them to join us each Wednesday at 5:30 pm for dinner with JAM starting at 6:00. It’s a great time!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 19! We are going to share our annual **Glow in the Dark Egg Hunt** with our community. Beginning at 10:00 am the multi-purpose room will turn into a dark hunting ground for children aged 2-11. The front room will remain lit but will also be filled with eggs for those that prefer a lighted atmosphere. We will have crafts available for children to complete once they have finished collecting eggs. Volunteers will be needed to greet our guests and visit with them. If you can help, just let Lisa know. The hunt will be from 10-11 am. We will also need LOTS of eggs filled with trinkets, wrapped candy, and coins. Bags of empty eggs will be available in the Welcome Center.

Also in April, we will have a planning meeting for VBS. VBS will be held June 16-20 and many hands are needed throughout the week. We are hoping for a large crowd this year, so please consider helping. There is also a need for help the week prior to VBS in creating our set and decorations. This is an important part of our program; the kids love to see the decorations. Please look for the date of the meeting in the next couple of weeks.

Please see Lisa if you have any questions or are ready to participate in some of the most rewarding roles around!



RUMMAGE SALE 2025

It's time to start thinking about RUMMAGE!

Susan Pollman will be at the bus garage to collect items for the rummage sale on these Sundays at 10:45 am

- April 13
- May 18
- June 22
- July 13

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH



Lenten dinners with the JAM kids has been such a blessing. Once the kids go off to the classrooms to learn about Jesus, the adults stay behind for prayer, discussion, singing and worship.



Improvements to the audio-visual equipment has made events in the Fellowship Hall run much more smoothly with way better sound quality. Thank you Building and Grounds Crew!



The Kitchen Committee sure does their share.



Clean-up, clean-up everybody everywhere!

The kitchen is the nerve-center of most homes. The same is true of the kitchen at St. Paul's. On St. Patrick's day the Kitchen Committee cleaned all the important parts of our vast kitchen. The sinks, hoods, backsplash, stove-tops, ovens and all their racks twinkle like brand new. Now we're ready for Easter!



Shining the light in a dark oven



It was a thorough cleaning

Holy Week Schedule

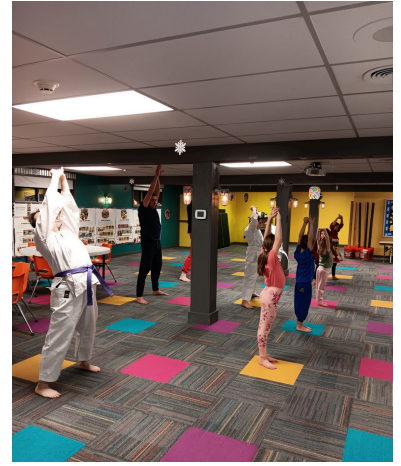
- PALM SUNDAY SERVICE, MARCH 13
9:30 AM
- GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE MARCH 18
7:00 PM
- COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT
SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 10:00 AM
- EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE APRIL
20, 9:30 AM
- EASTER BRUNCH IN THE
FELLOWSHIP HALL, APRIL 20,
11:00 AM



MARTIAL ARTS

We have about 14 people involved in St. Paul's Martial Arts Ministry with 10 of those being children. Come join us.

Recently, we had rank testing with Mr. Bill Bassett being promoted to Orange Belt and Mrs. Letitia Wong being promoted to Brown Belt! We meet twice a week on Tuesdays and Fridays at 6pm.



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Anniversaries

04/21 RAGSDALE, Kimberly and Nicholas

Birthdays

04/01 STADLER, Phyllis

04/02 PERCIVAL, Lois

04/04 KALLEMEIER, Robert

04/05 BODENSCHATZ, Cynthia

04/06 POTRATZ, Eric

04/07 PAQUETTE, Evan

04/09 CASH, Nancy

04/14 ALTHAUS, Joan

04/17 GRAELER, Kelly

04/22 HINZPETER, Ruth

05/01 CREWS, Sarah

05/01 WONG, Conway

Condolences

The family of Sally Logan, daughter of Harold Dielmann, who passed away 3/3

The family of Mary Winkler, mother of Debbie Graeler, who passed away 3/5

St. Paul's Evangelical Church
9801 Olive Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63141



Sundays

Worship Service 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 11:00 a.m.

Mondays - Church Office Closed

Tuesdays

Quilters and Project Linus 9:30 a.m.
Prayer & Care Meeting 1:30 p.m.
Martial Arts 6 and 7 p.m.

Wednesdays

Women's Bible Study 9:00 a.m.
JAM Jesus and me 5:30 p.m.
Lenten Dinner 5:30 p.m.
Lenten Worship 6:15 p.m.

Thursdays

Praise Ringers 6:00 p.m.
Chorale 7:00 p.m.

Fridays

Martial Arts 6 and 7 p.m.

4/7 Missions Team, 7 pm
4/14 Deacons 5:30 pm, Elders 7 pm
4/13 Palm Sunday, 9:30 am
4/15 YarnWorks
4/18 Good Friday
4/19 Community Easter Egg Hunt, 10 am
4/20 Easter Sunday 9:30 am
4/21 Reasonable Faith, 7 pm
4/26 Pray with the Elders 9 am
4/28 Quilts of Valor, 9 am