

MISSION & OUTREACH

Will meet on Wednesday, **April 8 at 9:00 a.m.**
(Potluck Lunch)

DO-DAY

Will meet on Wednesday, **April 22 from 9:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m.** (Potluck Lunch)

PRISCILLA CIRCLE

Will meet on Monday, **April 13 at 2:30 p.m.**
Bible Study/Hostess: Gladys D.

BIRTHDAY CLUB

Will meet on **April 16 at 10:00 a.m.**

MEN'S EARLY RISERS

Will meet on **April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 at 8:00 a.m.** at Cook's Café.

POP-UP BIBLE STUDY

Will meet **according to everyone's schedules.**



Jr. High Youth Group (6th-8th Grade)

- * **April 8, 15, 22, 29 - (5:00-6:15 p.m.)** Jr. High Youth group will meet. (Meal served)
- * **April 12 - (4:00-9:00 p.m.)** Outreach Night at OLBC-Okoboji.
- * **April 29 - JAM Year-End Party and Pizza Night!**

Sr. High Youth Group (9th-12th Grade)

- * **April 8, 15, 22, 29 - (6:30-8:00 p.m.)** Sr. High Youth group will meet.

7th/8th Confirmation

- * **April 8, 22, 29 - (4:00-4:50 p.m.)** Class will meet with Pastor Martin.
- * **April 12 - (4:00-9:00 p.m.)** Outreach Night at OLBC-Okoboji.

5th Grade First Communion Class

- * **April 2 - (7:00 p.m.)** Receive First Communion during Maundy Thursday Worship service.

JAM (1st-5th Grade)

- * **April 8, 15, 22, 29 - (5:00-6:15 p.m.)** JAM will meet. (Meal served)
- * **April 29 - JAM Year-End Party and Pizza Night!**

Sunday School (4 yrs.-6th Grade)

- * **April 12, 19, 26 - (10:15-11:00 a.m.)** Will meet.
- * **April 26 - Celebration Sunday!** Last SS class. Students will sing during 9:00 a.m. service.

There will be NO Youth Activities on Wednesday, April 1 for Holy Week.

NO Sunday School classes on April 5.



2026 - Open Dates: Sign-up (*In Fellowship Hall*) or contact the office.

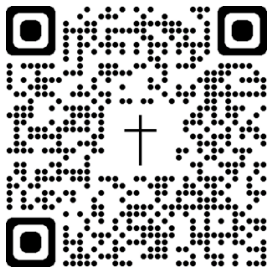


Radio Broadcast: (\$95) **April 12, 26; May 17; July 12; August 9, 16, 23, 30; October 8, 25; November 1, 8, 5, 29; December 27.**



Altar Flowers / Coffee Fellowship: Sign up/contact the office for a special date you wish to have.

Thank you to all who sponsored the Radio Broadcasts, Live Streams, Flowers, & Coffee Fellowships.



**Radio Broadcast on Sundays
at 9:00 a.m. on KIWA - FM 100.7 and AM 1550**

Website: www.stpaulsheldon.org

E-mail: pleasant@nethtc.net

Church Office: (712) 324-3049

Pastor: Christopher Martin ~ E-mail: pastor@stpaulsheldon.org





The Difference Easter Makes

“Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” (*John 20:15*)

While I love all of the Easter accounts in each Gospel, I have to admit, I really love John’s Easter account, in particular, the moments leading up to Mary Magdalene’s realization that Jesus had truly risen from the dead. Mary has seen with her own eyes that the tomb was empty. She’s heard the word from the angel that Jesus isn’t there because He had risen from the dead. Jesus, Himself had predicted multiple times before the events of the previous week happened that it would end with Him rising from the dead. All the evidence is right there in front of her. And yet, where is she? Outside the tomb, weeping. Because she just cannot allow herself to believe the good news of Easter: Christ is Risen! Alleluia! But, when Jesus asks her why she is crying, who is she looking for, and she realizes that she’s speaking with Jesus, and that He has indeed risen from the dead, her weeping turns to joy, which then compels her to go and share the good news with others—Jesus is Risen!

Easter is our biggest festival in the Christian year, isn’t it? The day we celebrate the truth that Jesus rose from the dead. That’s why historically, Christians have chosen Sunday as their day of worship, so that we would never forget that Jesus rose from the dead, and that every Sunday would be for us a “little Easter” if you will.

And yet, for many of us, as we approach Easter - 2026, perhaps we identify with Mary Magdalene, standing there, outside the empty tomb, weeping, because to us, the idea that Jesus has risen from the dead and conquered sin, death, and Satan once and for all is too hard for us to believe.

Perhaps, we look at things going on in our own lives that try to tell us that the Resurrection of Our Lord means nothing for our daily life. The aches and pains you experience as you grow older. The challenges with your health that you or someone you love face that leave you anxious and afraid for the future. There’s the political polarization we live with in our nation that seems to only drive people further and further apart. There’s all the changes we have witnessed in our community, and all of the things going on in our world that leave us concerned about what the future holds.

Friends, as we approach Easter, it’s so easy to get so consumed on what’s going on in the world in which we live, or all the change that is being introduced into our lives that, perhaps if we’re honest with ourselves, we just don’t want to accept, that we’re much like Mary Magdalene. Standing outside of the empty tomb that declares to us Christ is Risen, and yet, we’re standing right outside weeping, because we’re so caught up in ourselves and our world, we’re not paying attention to the joyful news that the Word of God declares: Christ is Risen! Your sins are forgiven! Life has been restored to God’s creation!

Now, did Mary’s weeping and unbelief there outside of the tomb have the power to put Jesus back in the grave? No. Likewise, did Jesus see Mary weeping there by the side of the tomb, and say, “I’ll just leave her where she is?” and let her continue to weep? No. Jesus speaks His Word into her life, and Mary’s life is changed.

That is exactly what God’s Word does for us as well. Nothing in this world has the power to put Jesus back into the grave. Nothing will ever change the reality of the resurrection. The world around you wants to distract you from that reality. But as you immerse yourself in God’s Word each and every day, and allow your faith in the crucified and risen Jesus to guide you in everything you say and do, your gloom will turn to Easter joy. That doesn’t mean that you won’t experience hardship and sorrow. But, you’ll face it with a joy that the world cannot give or understand. Because you know that Jesus has already defeated sin and death, and that you will one day rise from life in this sinful, fallen, world to live forever with Him in paradise.

Some of you may be familiar with the hymn, “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus.” As we move into Easter, the refrain at the end of each verse is a perfect reminder for us as we always look to the cross and the empty tomb of Jesus to guide our thoughts, our actions, and our words:

“Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, In the light of His glory and grace.”

Indeed, turn your eyes away from yourself, and all the stuff in this world that leaves you anxious, and instead, turn your eyes on Jesus, this Easter and always!

Your Friend in Christ,
Pastor Christopher Martin

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY - BRI



Middle school - Jr. High Youth Group (6th - 8th) meets on Wednesdays from 5:00-6:15 p.m. with a dinner served. Friends are always welcome at our youth group! Jr. High Youth group's last meeting of the year will be on Wednesday, April 29.

High school - Sr. High Youth Group (9th - 12th) meets Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Friends are always welcome at our youth group!

There are NO Youth Group activities on Wednesday, April 1 due to Holy Week.

Set up and prep for the Easter breakfast will be on Saturday, April 4 at 1:00 p.m. Please plan to help and have your requested donations at church by that time. The Easter Sunday sunrise service is at 7:00 a.m. on April 5 with breakfast from 7:45-8:45 a.m. The Easter Egg Hunt will begin at 8:15 a.m. Please have your Jr. High/Sr. High Youth student to church by 6:30 a.m.

All proceeds from the Easter breakfast will go towards our high school retreat this summer to Lincoln. Students are excited for this retreat happening July 17-19. We plan to grow in fellowship with one another and in faith through concentrated time spent in God's word.

The Pork Supper is scheduled for Saturday, May 2 from 5 - 7 p.m. All Jr. High and Sr. High students/families, please have 2 dozen desserts to the church kitchen by Friday, May 1.

Jr. High/Sr. High Youth and at least one parent are requested to be at church by 4:30 p.m. on Saturday May 2, to help. We plan to start clean up at 7:00 p.m. and ending the night around 7:30 p.m.

Additionally, Jr. High/Sr. High Youth students and a parent please be at church at 6:00 p.m. on Friday evening to make cornbread muffins, honey butter, and coleslaw.

Confirmation Students:

Please plan on the Outreach Night at IOLBC (Okoboji) -No cost. We will meet at church at 4:00 p.m. and return by 9:00 p.m. *April 12* - Church vs. Church Dodgeball

- Bri Oetken, Youth Director



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Save the date! VBS is scheduled for July 6-9, 1:00-5:00 p.m. IOLBC will join us again to lead our time together as we journey to know God's name.

Sunday school (4-yr. old-6th grade) will run from 10:15-11:00 a.m. Sunday school will meet on April 12, April 19, and April 26. Our final Sunday school class will be April 26, with a celebration of our year of Sunday school before we break for summer.

- Bri Oetken, Sunday School Superintendent

JAM (Jesus And Me)



JAM continues to meet on Wednesdays from 5:00-6:15 p.m. (1st-5th grades) On April 1, there will be NO JAM due to Holy Week. Our last night of JAM for the school year will be April 29.

On March 18, we presented the completed quilt and a card made by the JAM students to Mark and Lori Brown to thank them for their many years of service to JAM in every role from sub to table parent to Director - we are so grateful and they will be missed as they transition to their new home in Eastern Iowa! The students also made a card for Mary Ellen Reyelts, who did the actual quilting of the squares the students made, to thank her for sharing her time and talent with us. JAM will need two new table parents for next school year so please contact Jill or the church office if you're interested in serving JAM in this role.

- Jill Cook, JAM Director



MOMCO GROUP

THE MOMCO

MomCo will meet on Saturdays, April 4 and 18, (1st/3rd Saturdays of the month, 10:45-11:45 a.m.) in the fellowship hall and lounge. This ministry is for moms and kids ages 5 and under, we hope you will join us for a mom's Bible study and a fun, faith-filled time for the kids to play!

The MomCo meeting on April 4 will be at 9:45 a.m. in City Park for the Egg Hunt and a possible play at the park afterwards! This will be a time of fellowship, there will not be a lesson or childcare provided on this date.

MomCo meets during the school year and will pause during summer break before beginning again next school year. All moms are invited regardless of denomination/church attendance, so please spread the word!

PASTORAL ACTS

Baptisms: Collins Ann Kavanagh, daughter of Austin and Trista Kavanagh.
Eugene Joseph Schilling, son of Clinton and Maleri Schilling.

Transferred Out: Lyle and Cynthia Vanden Berg, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Indianola, IA.
Cassandra Blubaugh, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Indianola, IA.

YEARLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

FEBRUARY

Total Income	\$ 19,457.98
Total Expense	\$ <u>-30,995.81</u>
Income Less Expense	\$ -11,537.83
Fiscal Year Income	\$ 40,656.71
Fiscal Year Expense	\$ <u>-61,884.57</u>
Fiscal Year Income Less Expense	\$ -21,227.86



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- April 2 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service-Holy Communion and First Communions
April 3 7:00 PM Good Friday Service Tenebrae Service
April 5 7:00 AM Easter Sunrise Service-Holy Communion - Lead by Jr./Sr. High Youth
** 7:45 - 8:45 AM Easter Breakfast - Served by the Jr./Sr. High Youth
** Easter Egg Hunt - During the Easter Breakfast **
April 5 9:00 AM Easter Service-Holy Communion

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE



The Jr. High and Sr. High Youth groups will share an Easter Skit during the Easter Sunrise Worship service on Sunday, April 5 at 7:00 a.m. They will have an Easter Breakfast (freewill offering) following the Sunrise service from 7:45-8:45 a.m., plus have an Easter Egg Hunt for the kids at 8:15 a.m. Parents are asked to help set up and serve for the Easter breakfast that morning.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Congratulations to the fifth grade students: Avery Eich, Alice Kanengieter, June Schilling, and Keaton Sneiderman on completing their First Communion training with Pastor Christopher Martin. They will receive their First Communion, with their families, during the Maundy Thursday worship service, April 2 at 7:00 p.m.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING - APRIL 26

The Church Council of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sheldon, Iowa, has called for a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, April 26, 2026, at 10:15 a.m. in the church sanctuary. A vote will be held on whether or not to amend the St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1425 Pleasant Court, Sheldon, IA 51201, Constitution by adding a provision (**red**) to C12.03. (page 9) - No officer shall hold more than one office at a time. No elected officer shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office, ***except the Treasurer, who is eligible to serve up to three consecutive terms of one year each.***

Since this is a Special Meeting of the congregation, **no other business may be transacted at this meeting.**

HOLY WEEK - SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday offerings will go to the general fund. Easter Sunrise offering will go to St. Paul Youth groups unless designated to a specific fund on your offering envelope. Easter Breakfast (freewill) donations will go to the Sr. High Summer Retreat.

ST. PAUL OFFICES

Please Note: St. Paul Offices will be CLOSED on Monday, April 6.

STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS REPAIR

A fundraiser has been started for repairing the stained-glass windows in the church sanctuary. Donations may be given through your offering by writing "Stained-Glass Windows Repair" in the memo or by bringing in to the church office. Help us reach our goal to restore our beautiful stained-glass windows.

Goal: \$65,000



CAN REDEMPTION CONTAINER

Can Redemption Container: Please make sure to use the chain lock on the can redemption lid after putting refund cans/plastic bottles into the container. Thank you.

ST. PAUL YOUTH PORK SUPPER FUNDRAISER

The St. Paul Youth Pork Supper will be on **Saturday, May 2**, (5:00- 7:00 p.m.) Freewill offering. Menu: smoked pork loin sandwich, cornbread muffins, coleslaw, baked beans, dessert, and a drink. Jr. High/Sr. High Youth and at least one parent are requested to be at church by 4:30 p.m. on May 2, to help. We plan to start clean up at 7:00 p.m. and ending the night around 7:30 p.m.



All Jr. High and Sr. High students/families, please have 2 dozen desserts to the church kitchen by Friday, May 1. Additionally, Jr. High/Sr. High Youth students and a parent please be at church at 6:00 p.m. on Friday evening to make cornbread muffins, honey butter, and coleslaw.

UNITY MEAL - THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who helped with the food prep, packaging meals to-go, and handing out the Sheldon Unity Meals! A special thank you to JoAnn Den Beste for organizing and coordinating it!

SHELDON FOOD BANK

The Sheldon Food Bank will be on Thursday, April 9. Please come to the Living Water Community Church, Sheldon, from 4:30-6:00 p.m.



SHELDON UNITY MEAL

The FREE Sheldon Area Unity Meal will be held on Monday, April 20 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Living Water Community Church. Free groceries are also available.

TOUCH OF HOPE - HAITI

St. Paul continues to sponsor Lensley Raymond and his classroom of the Simonette community. Sponsorship helps with yearly school expenses. To make a donation to this ministry, please write "Touch of Hope-Haiti" in the check memo. Thank you.

ST. PAUL - VBS

VBS Change of Date!! St. Paul Vacation Bible School will **NOW be held July 6-9!**

