



How happy can I be when I'm scared of dying?

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." Revelation 14:13

Many things are scary. Watching your infant wiggle out of the car carrier that you had momentarily set on the table—that's scary. Witnessing a car swerve into oncoming traffic—that's scary. But of all the scary things, death for many people is the scariest.

It's scary because of what we know and don't know. We know death is certain. Its cloud hangs over us at every traffic intersection, on every consult with our doctor, and during every violent storm. What we don't know is what dying is like or what, if anything, happens after death.

If there is no God, then death is the end and that's it. If so, then death may be final and sad, but it's hardly something to be afraid of. However, if there is existence after death and God is waiting to judge us for all the things we have done, then death is more than sad. It's scary.

God does exist. There are no ifs about that. The Bible pinpoints the greatest fear about dying and facing God: "It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Hebrews 10:31). Yes, that's scary! So how happy can I be when I'm scared of dying?

If it were up to us to find happiness in the face of death, we would be on an impossible journey. What we need to calm our fears and to find happiness is for someone to do something about death. The good news is that someone has.

God, who awaits you after death, sent Jesus to destroy death's fear. Jesus began that work by obeying God's laws for you. Then he traded places with you. He gave you his perfect life in exchange for your sins. And so, with your sins laid on him, he suffered a most horrible death, which earned God's forgiveness for you. With all sin forgiven, death lost its power. So, three days after his burial, Jesus rose to life from the dead. He defeated death so that it can no longer hold the lives and bodies of those it has claimed. God will raise all people from the dead.

Believe this good news and know for sure that God waits for you with open arms to welcome you into his heaven. This is why God tells us in the Bible: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."

The unknown experience of death may still be scary for you, but because death has been conquered by Jesus Christ, you can live happily, now and ever after.

— Pastor Matt Holtz

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Worship Schedule

Sunday services: 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Monday evenings: 6:00 p.m.

Midweek (Wed.) Lenten services are 3:30 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Holy Thursday service 6:00 p.m.

Good Friday Tre Ore noon – 3:00 p.m.

Good Friday Tenebrae 7:30 p.m.

Our 8am Sunday services are on YouTube and can also be heard on WNAM 1280 AM.

Upcoming Theme - Dead &

Buried: We have come to the final stretch of Lent, known as "Holy Week." Think about what that title is implying. We normally talk about a "holiday" (short for "holy day"), where one day is set aside for some special observance or celebration. But for centuries, believers have set aside this entire week for special observance. Clearly, what is discussed during Holy Week is important. Indeed, what we see happen this holy week is the foundation of our eternity. In Holy Week, we see the impossible. The Son of God dies. The Lord of life enters the last place he belonged—the grave. But what we will see this week is that, when Jesus entered the tomb, he did not go alone. He buried all our baggage with him: sin, guilt, shame, condemnation, fear. Jesus will walk out of the tomb. But thanks to him, those things will all stay dead and buried.



Dead and Buried
HOLY WEEK



Easter Series – Because He Lives: It is easy to become so engrossed in the details of historical events—who, when, where—that we miss their significance. For example, consider World War II. There are many

compelling stories. Lots of dates and data to remember. However, for a moment, set all that aside, and just imagine the Allies had lost. How would the world be different today? What would life be like for those of Jewish heritage? Would freedom exist in Europe? Would we be speaking German? With historical events, you miss out if you focus only on the details: *who, when, where*. You also need to focus what that historical event means. The Allies won. That means something!

In this season of Easter, it is good we review the details: *who, when, where*. That reminds us that the resurrection of Christ is not fairytale or fable. It is a historical event. . . the historical event. However, we do ourselves a disservice if we simply recall the historic details of Easter without thinking long and hard about Easter's significance. Jesus won. That means something! It is our privilege and pleasure to use the fifty days of Easter to discuss this fact: because he lives, not only is our eternity secure, but we have abundant resources to face the present.

4/2	Removing Our Guilt
4/6, 4/7	Hiding Treasure in the Trash
4/9	Relying on God's Grace
4/13, 4/14	Surrender Buries Siezure
4/17	A New Covenant Buries an Old Contract
4/18	Good Friday Tre Ore & Tenebrae
4/20	Because He Lives: Death has lost its sting
4/27, 4/28	Because He Lives: We have a Meaningful Mission

Official Acts

Baptized:

Nellie Jane Paschen, daughter of Tucker & Emily Paschen

Release:

Mildred Watermolen

Duane Watermolen

Adult Confirmation:

Jordan Janssen

Ministry Funding Plan Financials through February 28th, 2025

	Feb.	YTD
Income	\$ 347,625	\$ 2,005,738
Expense	\$ 221,400	\$ 1,861,503
Deficit	\$ +126,225	\$ +144,235

School News

Mission Statement:

Using God's Word as our guide, St. Paul Lutheran School will raise up future generations of Christians in our community by assisting parents in the Christian teaching of their children and by striving for excellence in all areas of instruction.

Call Updates: **Mr. Matthew Ivan** received a call to teach grades 5-8 at St. Peter's Lutheran School in Helenville, WI. Please keep Mr. Ivan and his family in your prayers as he deliberates this call. Reach out to him via email (mivan@stpaulappletonwi.com) with your thoughts and words of encouragement.

Housing Needed: Our International Student Program is seeking families who are willing to provide a homestay for the upcoming school year. If you are interested in hosting an International Student or would like additional information, contact [Mr. Kelley](#).

You're Invited! The students of St. Paul will be putting on the musical 'Annie Jr.' in May. Show times are 1pm & 6pm on Friday May 2nd. It's sure to be a packed house, so come early to grab a seat. For those unable to attend on Friday, there is a dress rehearsal scheduled on Thursday May 1st at 9:15am.



LWMS News

LWMS Meeting - All women of St. Paul are invited!

Thursday, May 15th at 6:30 PM, St. Paul LWMS will meet in the church basement. Please come and learn how our congregation is supporting missionaries and their families. We will be voting on National LWMS Board of Directors and 2025-2026 home and world mission projects of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society. LWMS meets four times throughout the year, plus attends a Spring Rally and a Fall Rally. After a break during the summer months, we will meet again on Thursday, September 18th, at 6:30 PM in the church basement.

Befriend a Mission (BAM) Program: LWMS women love missions and the missionaries who serve them. One way this is apparent is through the Befriend a Mission program (BAM). Each of the 60 circuits plus the non-circuit member congregations and the individual members receive at least one home mission and one world mission to befriend over a two-year period. The circuit's BAM Coordinator collects information about the missions and missionaries and shares the information with the circuit. The women of the circuit pray for the mission and missionary. They also send cards of encouragement and sometimes send gifts to support special projects or gifts simply to show love to the missionary and family. Over the next few months, we will be providing information about each of our new 2025-2026 BAM families.

A message from Home Missionary Joel Prange, Amazing Grace in Dickinson, ND:

In the late 1800's my great-great-grandfather worked on a ranch near Bison, SD. Bison is in the northwest corner of the state. He became friends with the rancher's son, and every generation since then have been friends, my grandma included. Grandma hadn't seen her friend from Bison for over 20 years when seminary call day arrived for me in 2022. Imagine her surprise as she found out that I was assigned to the southwest corner of ND, to Dickinson, a little over 100 miles from her friend. They text and discover that her friend has a grandson around my age, working as a realtor in Dickinson.

I connected with this grandson, Zack, and he helped us find our first rental property to live in. We've become good friends, and he invited us to his wedding. I've had the opportunity to talk with him about many scriptural things, and he trusts me as someone that he can come to with questions about the Bible. He even discovered the storefront where Amazing Grace worships right now. He's not a member of our church, but in many ways, he's under my spiritual care as a prospect. All because my great-great-grandfather worked on a ranch over 100 years ago. God be praised!

'Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You turn people back to dust saying, 'Return to dust, you mortals.' A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.' Psalm 90:1-4

Home Missionary Elise Gross,
Academia Cristo, Quito, Ecuador

What's New with Women's Ministry

A meeting was held on March 11. Here are the highlights:

- We reviewed the Ash Wednesday meal. The meal was served to approximately 72 people. The free will offering for the meal netted \$156 and this amount was increased to \$200. We voted to give it to the LWMS spring rally collection from the congregation.
- The Mother/Daughter Banquet was discussed. Stephanie Ivan is leading this effort. Mark your calendars for **Sunday, April 27** in the afternoon. It will be held in the school gym. Watch for more information in the month ahead in the church news and the school news. This year's theme is 'Bloom and Grow.'
- Our Fall Festival date for 2025 is still unknown. When it is finalized, it will be shared with the congregation.
- Our Winter Outing venue will be changing for January, 2026. Good Company was discussed and the 'group agreed to go there. Prices will be very close to what we have paid in the past.

- We reviewed changes to our Constitution and by Laws. One of the main items was reducing our regular meetings per year to four with the option to add meetings, if necessary. Also, the presidential duties have been reduced because at the February meeting the regular events were discussed and members took leadership positions for them. If you would like more information on all the changes, please contact an officer of the group.
- Last, Kathy Schultz agreed to become our Women's Ministry president. All those in attendance happily voted her into this 2-year position.

Our next meeting is planned for **September 9** in the church basement. All women of the church are invited to join us for meetings and/or for helping. Our group is small and we need help for many events.

The Rennes birthday parties continue on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 2:30. At the March party, we had some upper grade students join us. What fun!

2025 Easter Flower Memorials

We have 3 - \$20 & 3 - \$40 openings remaining. If you would like to be added to the list, please contact the office (920-733-9061 or office@stpaulappletonwi.com). Thank you!

Lent Meals

Join us for food and fellowship between our midweek Lent services on Wednesdays! April meal menu as follows:

4/2 – PTO serving white chicken chili & salad
4/9 – 8th Graders menu tbd



Easter Breakfast

Celebrate Easter with our church family. Come and join us for breakfast on Easter Sunday, April 20, from 8-9:30am in the school gymnasium. We will serve pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage links, bacon, fruit, coffee, juice, and milk. If you would like to help with the breakfast, volunteer sign-up sheets will be in the back of church on 3/23.



Bloom & Grow Ladies' Event

St. Paul Women's Ministry invites ladies of all ages to join us on Sunday, April 27 at 2:00PM for an afternoon of spiritual encouragement, snacks, and flower pot painting! Register here to ensure we have enough supplies. Please bring a snack to share.

<https://stpaulappletonwi.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2836282>

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church and School Project Wish List

1. Debt Retirement \$141,491
Any donations (large or small) given toward the item(s) is greatly appreciated. For a closer look as well as giving options, please follow this link: [Wish List Giving](#).

FVL News

Financial aid application windows are open for the 2025-26 school year. Information and application links for **Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP)**, **FVL's Tuition Assistance Program**, and the **Ladies Guild Memorial Scholarship** are on the FVL website (fvlhs.org/tuition-help).

All are invited to attend the FVL Choirs Sacred Concert on Sunday, April 6, at 2:00 PM in the Auditorium.

FVL's International Program offers your family the opportunity to make global connections without leaving home! Consider hosting an international student so they can get a Christ-centered education at FVL. Contact Monica Uhlenbrauck (muhlenbrauck@fvlhs.org).

Now hiring an On-Site Substitute Teacher/Office Assistant. Please go to fvlhs.org/about/employment for information.

Free Seminar on Long-Term Care April 1. Learn about the benefits of long-term care insurance, so that you can determine if this is right for your family. Go to fvlhs.org/seminar for details and registration.

FVL Tuition Planning & Tips Seminar - Interested parents of students in grades 6-8 are invited to join President Loberger in a Financial Zoom Meeting on Monday, March 31, at 7:00 PM. No registration needed. Find the meeting codes on our website (fvlhs.org/news).

Youth Sports Opportunities including Summer Camps, Middle School Track Team (register by April 5), Softball Clinic (April 12, register by April 9), and Fox Valley Saints Football (beginning in August) are shared on fvlhs.org/youth-sports.

7th grade students are welcome to attend our **Discover FVL event** on Wednesday, April 2, from 9:45 AM-2:05 PM. Information and registration are available at fvlhs.org/discover-fvl, or contact the Admissions Office (admissions@fvlhs.org) with questions.

Join us online on Friday, April 11 for the silent auction supporting FVL's Tuition Assistance Program and Operations. Visit fvlhs.org/foxfest for more info and to register.