



ST. PAUL

LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

302 N. Morrison St. Appleton, WI 54911

April 2026

The Necessity of Holy Week

As we stand on the threshold of Holy Week, our attention is drawn to Jesus' solemn words: "It is necessary that the Son of Man be delivered into the hands of sinful men." These words, spoken to his disciples, set the tone for what lies ahead. They are not merely a prediction—they are a declaration of divine purpose. What will unfold in the coming days is not an accident of history, but the very heart of God's saving plan.

The word "necessary" is striking. From a human perspective, nothing about betrayal, suffering, and death seems necessary—especially for the Son of God. We might imagine countless other ways for God to demonstrate his love or accomplish salvation. Yet Jesus speaks with certainty: this must happen. Why? Because this is the way God chose to rescue sinners.

Holy Week confronts us with a difficult truth: our sin required nothing less than the suffering and death of Christ. When Jesus speaks of being "delivered into the hands of sinful men," we are reminded not only of Judas' betrayal or the injustice of the religious leaders and Roman authorities, but of our own role. It was not only their sin that led Jesus to the cross—it was ours as well. Our pride, our anger, our failures to love God and one another perfectly—these are the reasons this suffering was necessary.

And yet, this is precisely where the comfort of Holy Week shines brightest. Jesus was not caught off guard. He was not a helpless victim swept along by forces beyond his control. He went willingly. He knew what was coming, and still he set his face toward Jerusalem. The necessity of his suffering was rooted in his love for you.

As we prepare for Holy Week, we are invited to slow down and reflect deeply on this truth. It is easy to rush from Palm Sunday's celebration to Easter morning's joy, but in doing so, we risk missing the depth of what Christ has done. The path to the empty tomb leads through the cross. It leads through the garden where Jesus wrestled in prayer, through the courtroom where he was falsely

accused, through the streets where he carried his cross, and finally to Golgotha where he gave his life.

Take time this week to walk that path with your Savior. Read the Passion accounts in the Gospels. Place yourself among the disciples, who struggled to understand. Stand at a distance with Peter, who wept bitterly after his denial. Listen to the crowds, whose cries turned from "Hosanna" to "Crucify." And then look to Jesus—silent before his accusers, patient in suffering, and steadfast in his mission.

This is not just a story of sorrow; it is a story of salvation. The necessity of Jesus' suffering means that your forgiveness is certain. Every lash, every insult, every nail was borne for you. When Jesus was delivered into the hands of sinful men, he was, in truth, delivering himself into death so that you might have life.

As a church family, let us gather often during Holy Week. Worship together. Hear again the account of our Savior's passion. Let the weight of his sacrifice settle on your heart—not to leave you in despair, but to deepen your gratitude and strengthen your faith.

And then, when Easter morning arrives, the joy will be all the greater. For we will know what it cost. We will understand more fully why it was necessary. And we will rejoice that what was necessary for our salvation has been fully accomplished by our Savior.

May God prepare our hearts this week to receive anew the immeasurable love of Christ.

Pastor Justin Shrum

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Worship Schedule

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

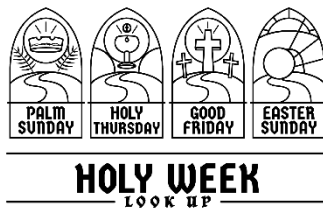
Monday evenings: 6:00 p.m.

Holy Week Service times listed below.

Our 8am Sunday service is on YouTube and can also be heard on the radio WOSH 1490 AM and 93.9 FM (recorded) at 9am.

Holy Week Series 'Look Up':

In the world's first week, God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh. The pattern was set. In the world's greatest week, God redeemed the world in six days. And on the seventh day, the Son of God rested in the tomb, the Sabbath of all Sabbaths. When you see the suffering of our Savior on your behalf this week, you may be tempted to look down, hanging your head in shame. You may be tempted to look around at everything disappointing in this world and shake your head. But God encourages you to look up. Your redemption is near!



New Series Begins Easter Sunday 4/5 – 'Easter, What Difference Does it Make?':

Life is full of either/or moments. Some of them are of little long-term consequence. I will have either the chicken or the fish. Some of them matter more. I will accept the new job offer or keep my current job.

One either/or moment is life-changing for every human being. Either Jesus is still dead, or Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus claimed he would rise from the dead. "The Son of Man must suffer many things. . . be killed and after three days rise again" (Mark 8:31). So if Jesus remains dead, he is both a failure and a fraud. If Christ has not been raised, we are still in our sin. But Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! It makes all the difference! He lives! The season of Easter is a 50- day celebration of that fact.

4/2	Holy Thursday Worship at 6pm – Look Up to Find the Source of Salvation
4/3	Good Friday Tre Ore Worship 12pm – 3pm Good Friday Tenebrae Worship 7:30pm
4/5	Easter Worship at 7am & 9:30am – He Lives to Take Me from Death to Life
4/12-13	He Lives to Give me Proof and Peace
4/19-20	He Lives to Restore My Hope
4/26-27	He Lives to be My Good Shepherd

Official Acts

Transfer Out:

Jackie Luehring

Financials

Ministry Funding Plan Financials through Feb. 28th, 2026

	Feb.	YTD
Income	\$ 364,747	\$2,102,519
Expense	\$ 235,405	\$1,984,975
Deficit	\$+129,342	\$+117,544

Thrivent Choice Dollars – Thank you! In 2025, St. Paul received \$7,303 from your direction of Choice Dollars. For more information on how to direct your charitable grant funding click [HERE](#).

School News

Mission Statement:

TOGETHER, we partner with families to nurture children for Christian lives of service and for eternity.

Call Updates: Principal Jason Kelley and Mrs. Alyssa Kelley have received calls to serve at Apostles Lutheran School in San Jose, CA. Mr. Kelley's call is to serve as principal for grades K-8 and Mrs. Kelley's call is to serve as 3rd grade teacher and assist with school music. They appreciate your prayers and input as they deliberate the calls to serve at Apostles in San Jose, CA and those they are currently holding at St. Paul in Appleton. (jkelly@stpaulappletonwi.com and akelley@stpaulappletonwi.com)

New Branding & Logo: Throughout this school year, we have contracted with [Blueprint for Schools](#) for branding and logo purposes for your ECC and school. It was amazing that we were able to utilize the expertise of one of our own school families in the design process for our new logo. Thank you Lindsay Ropella for helping us design and develop the new logo for our ECC and School! Now that this process is complete, we will have a new website up and running in the next few weeks. Again, thanks to one of our own school families, this project is coming together very well. Thank you Brad Beck for helping us design and develop a new website for our St. Paul Lutheran Ministries! The following are the main portions of our branding and logo:



Logo Representation

TWO BUILDINGS

The two buildings symbolize that St. Paul is nestled right in the downtown community, as well as to represent the two sides of the school - both the ECC Daycare and the K-8 School.

CROSS & BOOK

The cross represents St. Paul Church as a support for the school, as well as Christ (& the Bible) being the firm foundation the school is built upon. The book can also represent academics.

MISSION / REFLECTION The mirroring of the logo represents the two sides of St. Paul - nurturing both FAITH & FUTURES through the ECC and School. The Cross at center represents doing this together as a Christ community.

Lower Grades Play Invite: On April 24th, grades K-4 will be putting on various skits they've prepared. All are welcome to come and enjoy the St. Paul Theatre at 1pm & 6pm.

April Chapel Invite: All are invited to join us in Chapel on Friday mornings. Our service begins at 8:05am on 4/10, 4/17, and 4/24.

LWMS News

LWMS Paperland Circuit Spring Rally is scheduled on Saturday, April 18, 2026, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Neenah. Registration on April 18 begins at 8:00 AM. The rally concludes with lunch starting at 12:15 PM. The theme for the rally is "Starting a Church from Scratch." Rev. Fred Berger, of New Mission Start from 100 in 10 Initiative, will be the guest speaker. Please join us for a morning of prayer, singing, mission updates, and discussions of future mission work. Please contact Tammie Beitz at beitz@athenet.net if you would like to attend the rally.

LWMS COLLECTION FOR CENTRAL AFRICA MEDICAL MISSION (CAMM) IN 2026: The Central Africa Medical Mission has several ongoing supply needs for babies, toddlers, young children, and adults as they travel to villages in Malawi and Zambia. LWMS will be sponsoring a collection of baby and toddler clothes, blankets, hats, etc. from April 19, 2026 through May 17, 2026 to send to CAMM. The supply list includes:

- Knit hats for babies and small children
- Baby blankets
- Onesies (newborn to 2T)
- Booties and socks
- Pants/Leggings (newborn to 4T)
- Washcloths (crocheted or bought)
- Knitted winter hats (newborn to adult)
- Short sleeve shirts (24 months to 4T)
- Sun hats (newborn to adult)
- Sweatshirts (24 months to 4T)

An announcement will be made on April 19 to kick off the collection. The collection display and bins will be located in the narthex.

A message from World Missionary Matt Behmer, One Latin America Team, Chigorodo, Colombia:

In 2015, César Augusto began studying with *Academia Cristo*. Living in a town in Columbia where most churches reject the doctrine of the Trinity, he sensed something was missing. Through *Academia Cristo*, he found instructors that taught God's Word in its truth and purity. In 2023, after years of study, César started a Bible study group to share the gospel with others. This group soon turned into a church plant, drawing families with children who were excited to learn and grow in Christian faith.

As the group studied the Bible together, they discovered that three young men from three families had not yet been baptized. César, working with other leaders in the group, made plans for these young men to receive the life-giving waters of baptism. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, these boys became children of God. Their sins were washed away. They had eternal salvation! The joy from this day is captured on their faces.

'Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age' Matthew 28:18-20.

World Missionary Matt Behmer

One Latin America Team, Chigorodo, Colombia

What's New with Women's Ministry



Save the date! Women's Ministry is hosting a tea party for ladies of all ages on Sunday, April 26 at 2pm. Details and registration will be in the bulletin in the coming weeks. Hope to see you there!

Easter Breakfast

Join us Easter morning for a breakfast of scrambled eggs, cheesy hash browns, ham, bacon, cinnamon rolls, fruit, coffee, juice and milk. Breakfast is served in the school gymnasium from 8-9:15am. If you would like to help with the breakfast, volunteer sign-up sheets are in the back of church. Volunteers are needed to help with set up, prepare and serve food and clean up afterwards. Thank you!



Giving Opportunities

At our last Voters' Meeting, we approved funding plans for two special projects.

Project #1 is the **Remodeling of our School Bathrooms**. Our School Bathrooms have served us well for over 70 years. The time has come for us to totally renovate our 2 main bathrooms and 4 accessory bathrooms. The cost of this entire project will be \$211,000. Through monies from current special funds we are able to already have \$147,000 on hand for this project. We are asking for people to prayerfully

consider donating toward the remaining cost of this project, **\$64,000**.

Project #2 is an **Intercom System for our School and ECC**. Our current system is in need of replacement. Not only is this system utilized for announcements, it is mostly important for critical notifications according to our ALICE Emergency Procedures. The total cost for this project will be \$18,000. Through monies from current special funds we are able to already have \$8,000 on hand for this project. We are asking for people to prayerfully consider donating toward the remaining cost of this project, **\$10,000**

Any donation large or small for these projects will be greatly appreciated. You can give electronically through our **church app** (1. click on "Give" 2. Enter dollar amount 3. Select Fund 'School Bathrooms' or 'School Intercom' 4. Enter your Payment Info.

You can also use an **offering envelope** available at the Information Desk (1. Use cash or check 2. Fill out appropriate personal info 3. Write in the Project you wish to give towards).



St. Paul Ministries in Appleton has an immediate opening for someone to join our janitorial team. The position is split between the school and church and will require 16-20 hours per week on average, typically afternoons and evenings. The schedule is flexible. Responsibilities include routine cleaning (vacuuming, dusting, mopping, restroom sanitation), empty trash and maintaining cleanliness in classrooms and common areas, and reporting maintenance needs. Qualifications include experience in janitorial work (preferred), ability to work independently and on a team, strong attention to detail and organization. Must be able to lift up to 30 pounds. Highly competitive pay based on experience. Please contact facilities@stpaulappletonwi.com, or call our office at 920-733-6701.

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

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Debt Retirement | \$82,630 |
| 2. School Bathrooms | \$52,660 |
| 3. Intercom System | \$10,000 |
| 4. Radio Broadcast Fund 2025 | \$9,200 |

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

FoxFest Dinner Auction "Great Outdoors" - April 17 (deadline to register is April 3-fvlhs.org/foxfest)

FVL Choirs Sacred Concert - Sunday, March 29, at 6:00 PM (new time) in the Auditorium

Free Seminar on Tax Law Changes & Christian Estate Planning - March 31 (Information and registration at fvlhs.org/seminar)

No school and School & SCRIP Offices will be closed for Easter weekend from April 2-6.

WELS Bandfest at Winnebago Lutheran Academy (WLA), with a concert on Sunday, March 29, at 2:00 PM. Concert will be livestreamed on the WLA YouTube channel (youtube.com/@WLATV).

The Wisconsin Parental Choice Program April application window is open April 1-20. Go to fvlhs.org/WPCP for details and the registration link.

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, April 6, at 6:30 PM. No registration needed. Find the meeting codes on our website (fvlhs.org/news).

The application windows for the Ladies Guild Memorial Scholarship (for new students only) and for FVL Tuition Assistance are open February 2 through May 1. Details are at fvlhs.org/admissions/paying-for-high-school.

Summer Camps and Youth Sports opportunities including a Spring Youth Golf team, Softball Clinic (April 18), Spring Track Camp, and Saints Football are shared on fvlhs.org/youth-sports. Summer Workouts registration is open.

FVL is accepting applications for two positions - Financial Controller and On-Site Substitute Teacher/Office Assistant.

Go to fvlhs.org/about/employment for details and the application link.

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).