

# The Epistle

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

***April 2025***



*Gathered to Go . . . to study God's Word, Worship together; and to walk with Christ by loving, serving and nurturing all God's people where ever they are and whatever their circumstances.*



## From Pastor Lori

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Over the years, my thinking concerning Easter has become more and more simplified. I don't spend nearly as much time trying to understand, explain or make sense of what happened. I am more comfortable with accepting the story at face value.

You know the story as well as I do. Jesus died on the cross. He was buried. The tomb was sealed. On the third day, the stone was rolled away and the women who came to anoint Jesus' body were told, "He has been raised; he is not here."

I don't have explanations for any of that. But I have experiences of that. I've seen it happen in my life and in the lives of other people. I read it everywhere in the scriptures. Easter resurrection isn't new. It's the pinnacle of what God has been doing all along.

For example, have you ever been freed from patterns or behaviors that diminished your life? Isn't that new life? Isn't that a retelling of the Israelites escaping the bondage of Israel? Have you ever had new insights into your life? A new way of seeing the world, another person or yourself? Every blind person whose eyes were opened by Jesus experienced new life, a resurrection. Have you ever felt stuck, without energy or direction in life? Remember the paralyzed man and Jesus saying, "Stand up, take up your mat and walk?" That's resurrection. Or think about a time when you felt a new sense of energy, enthusiasm or creativity. That's the resurrection breath of God blowing through your valley of dry bones.

These kinds of things are happening all the time in thousands of ways. They invite us to think of Easter as a verb rather than a noun. Something active that's happening in us and with us. I wonder...where do you see life and more life arising?

Happy Easter!

*Pastor Lori*

*We could not become like God, so God became like us. God showed us how to heal instead of kill, how to mend instead of destroy, how to love instead of hate, how to live instead of long for more. When we nailed God to a tree, God forgave. And when we buried God in the ground, God got up. -Rachel Held Evans-*

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## ***Church Council News***

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### **Core Value – Service: Literacy Volunteers Ontario – Yates**

Each month as a congregation we financially support a local organization or ministry with our Local Hunger Offering. During April we will continue supporting Literacy Volunteers Ontario - Yates with our offerings. In connection with our Core Value of “Service”, we are highlighting this ministry by having Cheryl Flynn, their Penn Yan Coordinator, speak about them during worship on April 13, 2025.

The mission of the Literacy Volunteers Ontario – Yates (LVOY) is to “Provide adults the literacy skills needed to reach their full potential as individuals, parents, workers and citizens”. They work with people in Ontario and Yates Counties. LVOY’s “primary programs – literacy for native English speakers and English for speakers of other languages – serve learners from all walks of life”. The people they serve range from young adults to retirees. LVOY primarily teaches on a one-on-one basis using trained volunteer tutors.



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## ***Faith Formation***

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### **Sunday Morning Faith Formation**

Worship is one of our core values. Do we worship because it's part of a church service, or does it spring from a heart of genuine praise? Join us this spring as we explore what the Bible says about what worship is and what it isn't, and to discover what it means to worship God with our whole life.

The study begins on **April 27th**. Classes meet from 8:30-9:30 in the meeting room. Contact Pastor Lori if you would like to obtain a book.



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## ***Social Ministry***

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### **Grab and Go**

The new changes in Grab & Go are underway. Thank you so much for all of your flexibility and willingness to help. We will update you when we have further information.

### **Sharing Shed April 2025**

What are some Spring things you enjoy after all the winter comfort foods? Think about it and let's add them to the Sharing Shed in April! How about some Easter Peeps, Coloring things, and jump ropes for the little ones! Then there's Spring cleaning after all the winter sickness! Clorox Wipes, Toilet Bowl Cleaner, Laundry supplies, sponges, dish soap, and the list goes on would come in handy! And then there is the usual list of Paper towels, Toilet Paper, Kleenex, hand soap, and hand sanitizer. Everything is welcome.... these are only suggestions. Thank you so much for your generosity and involvement in this wonderful gift of hospitality toward our neighbors!

## Hunger Offering for April

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me in.*

*Matthew 25:35*

Each month we collect an offering to help feed hungry people and help hurting communities in our county and around the world. Sixty percent of the offering is used to combat world hunger. Forty percent is given to local organizations to help them “feed” people either physically, emotionally or spiritually. This month, the local part of our hunger offering will be given to **The Literacy Volunteers of Yates/Ontario Counties.**



Your offering can be placed in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary or mailed directly to church. Remember to designate the amount you want to give on the hunger line of your envelope or write “Hunger Offering” on the memo line of your check.

Thank you for helping to care for our neighbors near and far!

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## ***Worship***

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### **Requested Hymns**

Thank you to everyone who has shared their favorite hymns! So far, we have sung: Amazing Grace, Here I Am Lord, Just as I Am, My Faith Looks Up to Thee, My Hope is Built on Nothing Less, Rock of Ages, Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling, Take My Life that I May Be, What a Friend We Have in Jesus and You are Mine.

The Worship and Music Committee is committed to using your hymn requests during our worship services. If you have not submitted your favorites yet, Hymn Request Forms are available on the information table in the narthex.

## **April News from the Pews**

### **Sunday April 6, 2025**

Psalm 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

### **Fifth Sunday in Lent**

John 12:1-8

***Hymn of the Day:*** Faith Begins by Letting Go ACS 1004

This is the last Sunday of Lent.

### **Sunday April 13, 2025**

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

### **Palm Sunday**

Luke 22:14-23:56

Today we follow Christ from triumphal entry to the cross, marked by his compassion for all who would betray, mock, accuse, or do violence to him. We enter this holy week accompanying Jesus to the cross with both grief and thanksgiving in our hearts, trusting in God's redeeming love.

***Hymn of the Day:*** My Song is Love Unknown ELW 343

The Gospel today found in Luke will be read in parts by the congregation and individual readers. The Gospel Acclamation is Blesses is the One, ACS #929.

### **Thursday April 17, 2025**

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-40

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

### **Maundy Thursday 6:30 PM**

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. Tonight we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciple's feet, we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another.

Laying on of Hands: Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty ELW 777

***Hymn of the Day:*** Great God, Your Love Has Called Us Here ELW 801

***Stripping of the Altar: Go*** to Dark Gethsemane (Sing Verses 1-3; Hum Verse 4)

Such a beautiful and meaningful service. We are blessed to celebrate the Eucharist Meal with each other after the blessing of the Laying on of Hands. We then sing softly as the altar is stripped and the familiar signs of Jesus are removed. We leave in silence remembering the night so long ago and ponder our own lives of faith.

### **Friday April 18, 2025**

### **Good Friday 6:30 PM**

**Sunday April 20, 2025****Easter Sunday**

Acts 10: 34-34

Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:19-26 Luke

24:1-12

**Hymn of the Day:** Christ the Lord is Risen Today ELW 369

“The last enemy to be destroyed is death,” Paul writes. Today Christ is risen! Alleluia! We gather together with astonishment and joy. Christ is risen and we have been set free from the bonds of death. Christ is risen, and we are forgiven. Christ is risen, and with the women at the tomb and Peter, we are amazed. Let us rejoice: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

We have gone from the somberness of the Lenten season to the festive celebration of Easter. The paraments are no longer purple, but white. The Lilies and flowers of spring decorate the cross and the sanctuary along with the Alleluia banner! Let us rejoice and sing Christ the Lord is Risen today, ALLELUIA!

**Sunday April 27, 2025****Second Sunday of Easter**

Psalm 118:14-29

Revelation 1:4-8

John 20:19-31









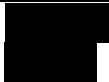




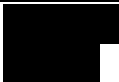

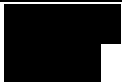









**Hymn of the Day:** Touch that Sooths and Heals ACS 939

In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death and the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

There will be a few changes in the liturgy beginning on Easter Sunday and continuing through out the Easter Season. We will use Setting Three (found on pages 140-146 in the ELW) for Holy Communion. Our Gospel Acclamation is number 175 found in the Service Music of the ELW. We will use the Nicene Creed and sing one verse of Hymn 678, God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending for our Offertory Hymn. The prayers, the benediction, and the sending verses will all be new to us during this season. All of these pieces, along with the hymns we sing, enhance the theme of each Sunday's worship.

***Alleluia Jesus lives! Because He lives, I live too! Thanks be to God!***

## Worship Leadership

	4/6	4/13	4/20	4/27
<b>Assisting Ministers</b>				
<b>Ushers (2)</b>				
<b>Greeters</b>				
<b>Readers</b>				
<b>Altar Guild</b>				
<b>Sound Board</b>				
<b>Computer</b>				
<b>Counters</b>				

## Lent and Holy Week Services

Midweek Services	April 2, 9	6:30 pm
Passion Sunday	April 13	10:00 am
Maundy Thursday	April 17	6:30 pm
Good Friday	April 18	6:30 pm
Easter Sunday	April 20	10:00 am

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## ***Congregational Care***

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### **“Shower” Each Other with Messages of Love**



Each month, we will “shower” someone from St. Paul’s with messages of love. Please take a moment to send the person/s listed below a note of encouragement. May God use our communications to remind the recipient of God’s faithful presence and love.



### **APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

#### **Birthdays**



#### **Anniversaries**



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## ***Reminders***

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### **Prayer Requests in Public Places**

Prayer is an important part of our faith. It is one of the ways we support each other during times of illness, crisis and grief. This is a faithful and powerful practice. Our intentions are often in the best place. However, some people prefer to keep their situation private. If you would like to include someone on the prayer list in the bulletin, during worship or through an email, please ask for their permission to make it public. Thank you.

### **Office Hours for the Month of April**



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## ***Community Events***

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### **Community Prayer Service**

The next Community Prayer Service will be on Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 12:15 pm.

## **Volunteer Want Ads**

### **Habitat for Humanity**

Provide lunch for the Saturday workers  
[REDACTED]

### **The Living Well**

Various opportunities to support the programs that serve adults and children in need in our community.  
[REDACTED]

### **Penn Yan Community Café**

Help prepare and serve meals to the community on the second and last Tuesday of every month.  
[REDACTED]

### **Yates Christmas Program**

Provides a program to ensure that no child in Penn Yan and Dundee School Districts goes without during the holiday season. Donate items, help distribute items, bell ringing  
[REDACTED]

### **Literacy Volunteers**

Volunteer to tutor, help as an office volunteer. Literacy Volunteers serves both native English speakers and those learning English as a second language. Tutoring is done in English, no foreign language skill is required. Tutors receive free training and ongoing staff support as they work one-on-one with learners. Office volunteers provide a variety of support to staff. [REDACTED]



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## ***Thank You Notes***

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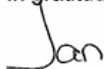
Dear Friends,

On behalf of Milly's Pantry and the children and families of Yates County, I would like to thank you for your 2025 donation in the amount of \$454 in support of our mission and programming. Your gift will help to provide supplemental weekend food and essential school supplies for the youth of Yates County.

We value your thoughtfulness and are grateful for the funds received to help maintain our programming and carry on Milly Bloomquist's legacy of charitable work.

From all of us at Milly's Panty and the children we serve, thank you for supporting our mission and fostering hope within our community and I am so glad to hear that your family enjoyed themselves at your celebration.

In gratitude,



Janet H. Barrett  
President  
Milly's Panty Board of Directors  
Milly's Pantry, Inc.

*Thank you so much for  
your ongoing hospitality to  
our dance exercise group!  
Happy Spring!*

*Ellen Hegarty*

Dear Friends,

We wanted to thank you for your \$661.00 donation that you made on 2/14/2025. Every act of your generosity helps us further our mission. I hope this message finds you well and filled with the same warmth and hope that your generosity has brought to so many.

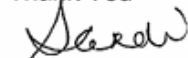
On behalf of The Living Well Mission, I want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your recent donation. Your kindness is a powerful reminder of the good that exists in our community.

Thanks to your support, we continue to be a vital resource for individuals and families facing food insecurity in Yates County. The Living Well Mission provides a respectful and nurturing environment where individuals can seek help without fear. Whether it's through interactions with our caring volunteers or the guidance of our dedicated staff, every person who walks through our doors knows they are not alone.

Your contribution is more than just a gift; it's a lifeline. It enables us to provide essential services, resources, and hope to those in need. From emergency food assistance to connecting individuals with the tools they need to achieve stability, your generosity makes it all possible.

Thank you for believing in our mission and standing with us in the fight against food insecurity. If you would like to learn more about the impact of your gift or ways to get further involved, please don't hesitate to reach out. We'd love to share more about how you are helping transform lives.

Thank You



Sandi Perl (sandi@thelivingwellmission.org)  
Executive Director

*Thank you  
for sharing your  
light in our  
community!*

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF**



**CHURCH COUNCIL:**

**NEWS FOR THE MAY 2025 EPISTLE IS DUE APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup>**