

April 2023

The monthly newsletter of Paynesville Lutheran Church

Point others to Jesus • Love generously and gracefully • Cultivate disciples



We are very excited to invite you to worship with us during Holy Week. Come prepared to be changed by the Proclamation of the Word on these important days in the life of our congregation. If you plan to join us for the 6:00 am Easter Sunday worship service, we want you to know that we will be beginning our worship service outdoors and then moving into the worship space. This service will look a little different than our other two services on Easter, so dress warmly if you plan to attend this service.

Shepherds Voice





Communion Workshop

April 2nd- 12:00pm - 1:00pm

At Paynesville Lutheran Church we believe one does not have to earn grace, and thus, one does not need to earn their way to the Lord's table. On Sunday, April 2 we will be offering a Communion Workshop for people of ALL ages to come and learn about the gift of Holy Communion and wonder together about its practice. During our time together, Pastors Paul will lead activities and discussion about this Holy Sacrament. Then, on Maundy Thursday, April 6 at 6:00pm, we will share communion together with the entire congregation. You may sign up in by contacting the church office. Young people of any age attending the event need to be accompanied by an adult. Please contact the pastor if you have any questions.





April Birthday Blessings to...

- 1 Byron Fuchs, Dave Heitke, Paul Osborne, Geri Jacobson
- 2 Erin Smith
- 3 Sam Bungum
- 4 Derek Ludwig, Cole Woehler, Graham Michaelis
- 5 Josh Reinke, Orion Erickson
- 6 Randi Lehmkuhl, Bert Stanley
- 7 Kella Bugbee, Norah Meyer
- 8 Vi Bengtson, Donavan Mayer, Ronald Bengtson,
- 9 Kathy Block, Joseph Neuman, Ada Yarmon, Avianna Yarmon
- 10 Christopher Price, Lita Roeske
- 11 Betty Geiger, Tim Malling
- 12 Brenda Lehmkuhl, Rachel Hoppe, Makya Price, Larry Mathison, Thomas Scholten
- 13 Keith Haase
- 14 Stella Albright, Jim Kirschenman
- 15 Tyler Schwandt
- 17 Loren Meierhofer, Nancy Kjar
- 18 Josh Bungum, Doris Reid
- 19 Terry Skoglund
- 20 Julie Smith, Madison Kotschevar
- 21 Brooke Caldwell, Katlin Bennett
- 22 Heather Anderson, Jaiden Deming, Nathan Rindahl
- 23 Noah Bruntlett, Laurie Nepsund, Nicole Bennett
- 24 Dave Jacobson, Logan Kleven, Ronan Lippert
- 25 Bev Aas, Keith Clementson, Sharon Johnson, Allan Solum, Jezmyn Rindahl, Gavin Diehm
- 26 Megan Reeck, Margaret Johnson
- 27 Arabella Bennett
- 28 Michael Armstrong, Jane Ringstad
- 29 Karlin Jacoby, Arlene Lindeman, Cooper Smith
- 30 Tracey Elfering, Joelle Haines, Lynne Jacobson

Are you interested in becoming a member?

If you're new to PLC and have been wondering more about our congregation or would like to know more about what it means to be a member of our worshipping community, please plan on joining us for our upcoming New Member Workshop. We'll share some information about our church, our beliefs, our mission, and the ministry we share!

If you're planning on attending or if you would like to join PLC, but you are unable to make it to the New Member Workshop, please contact the church office at 320-243-3624.

April 30 - New Member Workshop May 7 - New Member Recognition



PLC Financial Update

Below you will see a twelve month snapshot of the generosity of our congregation. The orange line shows the consistent expenses for the past twelve months. The blue line is the offering/tithing of the congregation. The blue line has a lot of ups and downs which primarily happens due to those who give on a quarterly or yearly basis. No matter how you choose to give we are so grateful for your generosity and how God continues to bless this congregation through you!



It is also interesting to note that there are more and more individuals and families that are choosing to make a financial commitment to the church and using some form of automated or regular giving. This is particularly helpful for the congregation in the budgeting process. Currently we have 62 family units that are utilizing "simply giving". Which is an automated way to have your gifts come to the congregation automatically. If you have questions about this form of giving or any other questions please reach out to the main office. Once again thank you for your generous heart and for supporting our shared ministry!

We're Giving Away MONEY!

In the over 30 years since our endowment was established, we have been fortunate enough to give close to \$500,000 to individuals and organizations dedicated to meaningful work in the church and in the world. A large amount of that has been given to young people of our congregation for scholarships in education, music, and to send them to camp. We are so thankful for the sustaining gift given by faithful saints of our congregation.

The Endowment Committee is now accepting applications and encourages any person or organization seeking funds to apply to the Paynesville

Lutheran Church Endowment. We receive applications from ministries within our congregation, community ministries, or ministries of the larger church and community. We look forward to reviewing applications and continuing the incredible impact of this gift we have as a congregation. **The deadline for applications is April 15.**





We've got a compelling lineup of topics for our upcoming Education Hour at PLC. Our continued goal is to provide meaningful and thought-provoking topics to deepen faith and encourage learning in our community. We'll do this in a variety of ways throughout the year

and we hope you'll join in on the learning and growth we'll do together. Please join us Sunday mornings at 10:00am in the PLC Chapel.

Up coming topics: **April 2nd** - Palm Sunday-No Adult Education **April 9th** - Easter Sunday-No Adult Education **April 16th** - Meet the Apostles-Part 1-Pastor Paul Shumaker **April 23rd** - Meet the Apostles-Part 2- Pastor Paul Shumaker **April 30th** - TBD, last class until fall

Easter Flower Pick-Up

Thank you to everyone who donated flowers for our Easter Services. Flower can be picked up following the 10:30 worship service on Easter Sunday. Flowers not picked up by Wednesday, April 12th will be donated. Flowers are marked with your name. The church will be closed on Monday, April 10, but will reopen on Tuesday, April 11 at 8:00am.





Did you know?

Have you ever wondered what the difference between tithing and offering is?

We often use the words offering and tithing interchangeably without truly knowing what they mean. It is true that they are directly related and share a common meaning – "that which we offer up to God in gratitude for what we have been given." But they also differ slightly.

Tithing is often thought of as a gift given back to God before all else is given. Often it is a percentage that is regularly and faithfully given. Offering is that which is given above and beyond the tithe. So an offering is given as the spirit moves you and a tithe is for the consistent support of God's work through the church.

In both cases, tithing and offering are a tangible reminder of the gifts that we have that all come from God and we offer them generously back to God with a thankful heart.

During Holy Week this year be sure to stop in the gathering area to pick up your Holy Week Passport book. Holy Week Passports will be available to the children on Palm Sunday. We will have things for them to do during all the services leading up to Easter Sunday (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday). When you come to worship on



Palm Sunday (April 2), and each of the holy week services make sure to pick up your passport and the bag of goodies that goes with it as we walk with Jesus through the week of the Passion narrative. See you in worship!

Love & Serve the Lord

The majority of the work of the church is done by volunteers. Your participation in the life of this congregation is needed and appreciated. We are in need of volunteers willing to help with our Sunday morning worship services. We currently are in need of readers, communion assistants, video and project volunteers. Please contact Nancy Kjar or Tammy in the church office for more information or to add you name to the volunteer list.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Greetings from the Call Committee. We would like to provide you all with a few updates. First, we want to assure you our work continues and is ongoing. We know we have been entrusted with an important responsibility, and we all share the same goal of following God's lead as we search for our next Associate Pastor.

We thank you for your patience and ask for your prayers as we evaluate candidates and seek the right candidate. While we continue to follow the established call process, we do want to connect with any qualified and ordained candidate who may be interested in our church. You may notice we will be posting about our search for a pastor on our website, Facebook, or other online platforms.

We can't offer you an exact timeline for the committee's work, but we can tell you we will be diligent in our efforts until we have our new pastor in place. We are grateful for the chance to serve you, the congregation of Paynesville Lutheran Church.

In God's Grace,

The Call Committee:

Stephanie Johnson Logan Armstrong Kristine Buermann Carter Fuchs Marie Grothe

LeAnn Hellermann Henry Lemke Colleen Moyer Lisa Reeck Steve Whitcomb

Staffing Support

Over the next several months you will see some new and familiar faces assisting with the worship needs of Paynesville Lutheran Church. Pastor Paul and the staff have done a wonderful job over the past year and a half covering for the absence of a second pastor. However, this is not sustainable for the long term. So, as we patiently wait for the Holy Spirit and the call committee to finish their important work we are putting in place some support for the staff. We are grateful for the pastoral assistance by all those who are able and willing to give us a hand in this process. Please continue to pray for the call committee, the synod and Pastor Paul and the staff of PLC. I also invite you to show the immense hospitality, that PLC is known for, to all the guest ministers that will be joining us in the months ahead.

God's peace,

PLC Church Council

Paynesville Lutheran Church 657 Maple Street

ANNUAL MEATBALL SUPPER & SILENT AUCTION



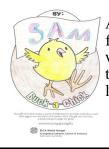
May 17, 2023 4:30 - 6:30pm Cost: FREE WILL DONATION

Menu includes: Meatballs and gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, coleslaw, dinner roll, and dessert To go meals are available.

April Mission of the Month

April's Mission of the Month at PLC is joining congregations from across the nation by hosting a "Buck-a-Chick" sale. For \$1, you can purchase and decorate a paper chick for yourself or in honor of a friend or family member. Join the fun and purchase a paper chick!

A dollar is all it takes to provide a family living in poverty with a little chick. Soon enough, the chick begins producing eggs. Its eggs make nutritious, protein-rich meals, and can be sold at the market place for income, helping a family escape hunger for good!



April's "Mission of the Month" is a mission the entire family can take part because, when it comes to coloring we are all kids at heart. So let's show with our hearts that we no longer want hunger to be part of the world we live in.

JOIN THE FUN!



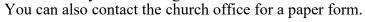
The Men's Bible study meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at PLC at 9:00am. Join us as we enjoy time together in Bible Study and fellowship.

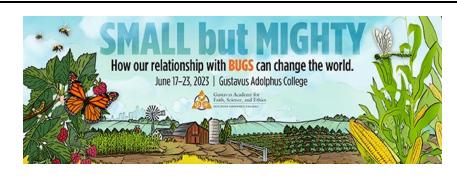


Your support is essential to the mission and ministry of Paynesville Lutheran Church. Consistent giving is a help to this congregation as we plan for ministry expenses throughout the year. If you've found it challenging to give consistently, this may be an opportunity for you to begin doing so. We thank you

in advance for all your continued gifts, financial and otherwise. Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Simply follow these easy steps:

- 1) Visit the church website at www.paynesvillelutheran.org,
- 2) Click on the "Online Giving" tab on the homepage,
- 3) Click on the "Online Giving" button,
- 4) Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.





Theme for Summer Intensive June 2022: Small but Mighty: How our relationship with BUGS can change the world.

Who Can Register?

Students who will have completed 9th-12th grade by June 2023.

Where

Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN (one hour south of Minneapolis and the MSP airport)

When

June 17-23, 2023 (Saturday to Friday)

What kinds of activities does the week include? To get an idea, you can view the program site https://sites.google.com/gustavus.edu/gafse-summerintensive-2023/home, more information will be added to this site as we get closer to the summer.

How

Registration will open on January 1st, 2023 and remain open until the June 2023 Summer Intensive is filled.

Cost

Participants pay a \$500 registration fee; \$100 is due upon registration to reserve your spot. All other costs are paid through a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment. Registration scholarships are available for participants based on need. Travel scholarships are also available.



The women's Bible study group meets on the second Bible Study Thursday of every month at 10:00 in the church chapel. We use the Gather magazine Bible study and there are copies available for those who don't have

one. We hope you will join us on Thursday April 13th at 10:00am. All are welcome!