

# SAINT PAUL'S UMC



APRIL  
2026



In the book *The Diary of a Country Priest*, there is a conversation between an old priest and a new young priest. The old priest is nearing the end of his life and wants to share what he knows about faith. He tries to spell it out philosophically but that does not work. He tries to invoke elaborate theological dogma, but he cannot express himself. Finally, he tells the young priest, "...the opposite of the Christian faith is to grow old and sad."

Even with the Easter story, it can be hard to avoid sadness and questioning. The women came to the tomb. Experience and ritual conditioned them to expect death and grief. Jesus had been crucified by Rome. Crucifixion was a cruel, humiliating and painful punishment, whereby victims died slowly. It was a terrible death meant to remind everyone that Roman power - not God, love, or mercy - had the whole world in its hands. That is the tragic core of our story.

Something happened that upended fear, grief and sadness. The men locked themselves behind closed doors but found Jesus in their despair. The women went expecting to prepare a corpse. Instead, they encountered the living Christ. Each of the Gospel writers tells the story a little differently, but we find awe, comfort and peace in the empty tomb. Something more profound than the simple resuscitation of a body happened. A man did not just walk out of a grave. It was not just conspiracy theories about a body being taken in the night. Maybe you prefer the metaphor that Jesus appearing was a symbolic way the community dealt with grief. Many have seen loved ones appear and do not know if they were an angel, a ghost, a dream, or their imagination. Our modern obsession with technology and reason obscures that most human cultures throughout history have these stories of appearances.

The resurrection story is more than any of these things. After the fear and grief subsided, the people were infused with a sense of community and divine purpose. Small bands of followers went into a hostile world. They gathered remembering the words of their friend and teacher:

*(continued on page 2)*

A welcoming community  
sharing Christ's love in  
service through relationships.

700 Wesley Lane/Mendota Heights MN/55118  
Phone: 651-452-5683 Email: [info@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:info@stpaulsmn.org)  
Website: [www.stpaulsmn.org](http://www.stpaulsmn.org)

Join us for worship  
on Sundays! 10:00 am

“Do this in remembrance of me.”

“Love one another.”

“Feed my sheep.”

“Go and make disciples...”

Centuries later, we are still part of that sacred body remembering those words and seeking to go and do likewise. Jesus’ ministry was life changing. The resurrection was world-saving. God saved Jesus from Rome and us from sin. It is a blessing that causes us to celebrate. Christ is Risen. Christ is Risen indeed! Peace, *Pastor Josh*



WELCOME

# Holy Week

## HOLY WEEK

*Holy Week is a sacred time for Christians to remember Jesus' final week as he journeyed to the cross*

**PALM SUNDAY**  
*Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>*  
♦ 10:00 am Worship

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
*Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>*  
♦ 6:30 pm Worship with Communion

**GOOD FRIDAY**  
*Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>*  
♦ 4:00 pm Worship

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
*Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>*  
♦ 10:00 am Worship with Communion & Don Irwin, Steinway artist

## The Easter Flowers are given to the Glory of God

-In Loving Memory of-

Yeen Chong  
Friends and family  
Sherry LaGuire  
Tom Lewis  
Charles Stanley and Marion Tribe;  
Karl and Grace Blau

By Curt Almberg  
By Kae Jewell  
By Mike LaGuire  
By Beda Lewis

By Melissa Dewey

-In Thanks for-

Our church family  
Family and friends  
Harold and Hilda McCorkhill  
7 grandchildren  
and 1 great grandchild

By Cecelia Burbach and Tom Good  
By Pat Fritsche  
By Jan Marshall

By Rhea Nyquist

-In Honor of-

Family

By Barb Jorgenson

-No Designation-

Happy Easter!

By Tim and Andrea Larson



## CHRISTIANS GATHERING TOGETHER

# Upcoming Events

## RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday  
April 25

9:00 am—3:00 pm

*If any questions, please  
talk to/contact*

**Nancy Pierson 612-965-6475**



Think 'SPRING'! **VOLUNTEER!** The all-church rummage sale is planned for the last Saturday in April. Everyone, including our neighbors, is invited to donate, shop and/or volunteer to help. **This is a big fundraiser and monies raised go towards missions! Please share now with family, friends and neighbors so as they are closet cleaning, they can consider setting aside a box or two to donate to Saint Paul's.**

**There are many volunteer opportunities.**

- Monday, **April 20**, 9:00 am - noon: Set up (tables need to be set/re-arranged in the fellowship hall, Bertelsen library, narthex and Wiggles and Giggles room)
- Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, **April 21 - 23**, 9:00 am - noon: Start the process of placing rummage received in the appropriate areas, marking rummage as practical and posting signs for navigating the sale
- Friday, **April 24**, 9:00 am until done: Finish the process of posting signs and placing/marking rummage accordingly
- Saturday, **April 25** - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm: Lots of ways to participate and help...look for future communications

**Other ways to help.**

- Advertise the sale - **talk** to your friends and neighbors, post on your Facebook page, post on your community page, look for opportunities to post on event boards
- Save brown paper bags needed during the sale
- Collect copy paper size boxes (15" x 12" x 10"). We have already received donations of larger boxes.

## NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

April 19

April 19<sup>th</sup> is a special Sunday within the United Methodist Church to recognize the gifts and contributions of Native Americans and to support ministries working with Native American communities. Funds collected are used to support various initiatives, including scholarships for Native American seminarians and programs that work with Native American communities. If you would like to contribute to this special offering, use the designated envelopes in your pew and mark "Native American Sunday" in the memo section of your check. A pew card with a QR code is also available for those who prefer online giving.

# Upcoming Events Continued

## SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES



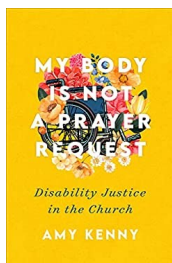
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesdays of  
the month  
9:30 am—noon

*Our small groups are a place of connection,  
growth, and support*

•**The Men's Group:** Stay tuned for upcoming dates: Contact John Grinager.

•**The Stitching Collective:** Spend some creative time with other makers. Quilt, knit, embroider, whatever your craft interest—all are welcome to bring your own project. We meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday from 9:30-11:30 am. The April meeting will only be held on April 8<sup>th</sup> due to the rummage sale. Contact Kathy Brooks.

## VIRTUAL BOOK STUDY



Tuesdays  
April 14—May 19  
6:30—8:00 pm

Pastor Josh will be co-leading a conference-wide virtual study of the book *My Body Is Not a Prayer Request* by Amy Kenny. The study is sponsored by the Minnesota Conference's Disabilities Ministries Committee, in partnership with the Office of Racial Equity and Justice. A General Commission on Religion and Race study guide will be used. The study is free, but you will need to buy your own book. Together, participants will reflect on how we speak about disability in the church, what God teaches about odies and belonging, and how we can build communities where every body is valued. The study runs six weeks on Tuesdays from April 14<sup>th</sup> to May 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:00 pm on Zoom. The registration link is: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

## CONFIRMATION



Sunday  
May 3  
10:00 am

Our second-year confirmation student, Clark Jedlicka, will publicly profess his faith and be confirmed as a member of the church during worship on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Celebrate with us as Clark takes the next step in his faith journey.

## NATIVE PLANT CLASS 2



Tuesday  
June 2  
6:30 pm

We are excited that Leslie Pilgrim is returning to Saint Paul's UMC to present what pollinators to plant in small spaces or container gardening and identifying weeds versus native plants - *Weeds 101*. Leslie has been recognized by Mendota Heights in service of natural resources, including water resources. Some of the community efforts she has created, led, and volunteered for include: Neighborhood Greening dedicated to community environmental education and stewardship, Roots in the Ground initiative with a goal to plant 5,000 trees in Mendota Heights in 5 years, and serves as a member on the board of the Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization.

## MUSIC



Thursday  
September 10  
6:30 pm

Jennifer Grimm (vocalist) and Dan Chouinard (pianist) will be performing pop tunes from the 60's/70's/80's Thursday evening, September 10 @ 6:30 pm.



GET READY,  
GRAB YOUR MORAL COMPASS,  
ON YOUR MARK AND GO

# Pathfinders

## PATHFINDERS

April 16

1:00 pm

*So what's with the missionary on our prayer list?*

For the last several months, you may have noticed a strange name on our Prayer List, usually accompanied by a distant land. Well, these are United Methodist missionaries that the Pathfinders group has designated as their missionary of choice for a one month period. Pastor Josh gave us a website that lists our missionaries. It is <https://gbhem-umc.my.site.com/hemgm/s/missionaries>

We generally pick out three different missionaries from various parts of the

world and spend a little time reviewing them and their work and then decide where to concentrate our efforts for the month.

In April, we will be praying for the **Rev. Rosangelica Acevedo** who serves in Puerto Rico at the Bishop Fred P. Corson Methodist Camp located in the town of Jayuya.

Rosangelica came from a church family – some lay leaders, some clergy, so her commitment to God and servanthood came early in her life. She became a US-2 missionary, where she realized she wanted to continue serving God and the church. In New Jersey, she learned about diaconal ministry – justice, love and service – and began seminary studies. Asked why mission is necessary, Rosangelica commented, *“As long as injustice, external and internal wars,*

*people in need, and abuses of power in families, communities and governments exist, we must be God's eyes and hands.”* Pretty good advice for each of us. Please join the Pathfinders in prayer for this dear lady during the month of April.

Our next Pathfinder's meeting is Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome. We enjoy a time of sharing stories, information about what different committees in our church are up to, a lesson and a time of fellowship. We'd love to have you join us. *Rhea Nyquist*



**Rev. Rosangelica Acevedo**



## THE WIRED WORD

Sundays, 9:00 am

Bertelsen Library

*Biblical commentary and discussion questions related to a topic in the news*

LEARNING FOR ALL AGES

## Adult Education

The mission of *The Wired Word* is to supply churches with solid scriptural material to help in facilitating group discussions about important matters of faith raised by news of the week.

The lessons encourage class dialogue on how to apply God's word to everyday life and engage class members with thought-provoking, stimulating discussions on messages contained in the Bible.

Adult education meets on Sundays at 9:00 am in the Bertelsen Library. A rotating group of volunteers lead *The Wired Word* discussions.

If you would like an email sent to you on Thursday with that upcoming Sunday's topic, please contact the church at [info@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:info@stpaulsmn.org) with your name and email address.



## SUPPORT OF THE CHURCH AND ITS MISSION

# Finance

## FINANCIALS

### Springing Forward in Faith

*"I am doing a new thing; now it springs up; do you not*

*perceive it?" – Isaiah 43:19 NRSV*

As the April showers bring forth new life, we are reminded of the fresh seasons God brings into our lives and our church community. Spring is a season of resurrection, growth, and new beginnings. Just as we "spring forward" our clocks in March to embrace more sunlight, this is the perfect time to "spring forward" in our financial stewardship and renew our commitment to God's work here at Saint Paul's.

### Spring Cleaning Our Stewardship

Often, we focus on cleaning out our

homes in April. It is also a great opportunity to do a "deep clean" of our financial habits. This season, I invite you to consider:

- **Refreshing Your Giving:** If you have meant to start tithing or increase your giving, April is a wonderful time for a fresh start.
- **Embracing Digital Giving:** For convenience and consistency, consider setting up automated recurring giving. It helps ensure that your commitments are met even when you are traveling or out of town. You can make a one-time gift or set up recurring giving through the VANCO mobile app. The app allows you to use your credit card or make a bank withdrawal. You can also set up regular giving through your bank by contacting our Finance Secretary, Dana Brandenburg Nyhus. ([danalbrandenburg@hotmail.com](mailto:danalbrandenburg@hotmail.com) or 651-331-9637)

• **Making a New Commitment**  
Small, consistent commitments grow into large fruits over time, just like a garden.

**Spotlight on Our Ministry Goals**  
Your faithful contributions in the first quarter have allowed us to feed those in need and support the ministry of Emma Norton Services.

### A Vision for 2026

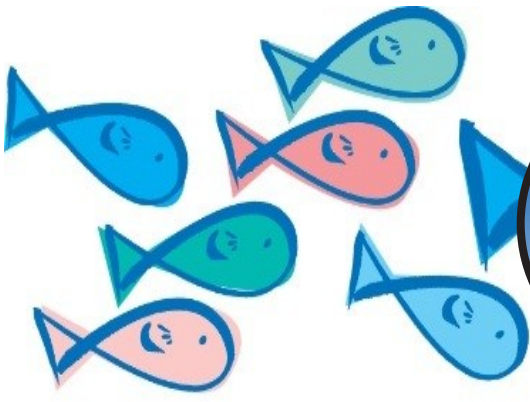
We are deeply grateful for your continued trust and generosity. Your financial commitment is not just a donation; it is a seed sown into the lives of our neighbors and the spread of the Gospel. Thank you for your dedication to being a steward of God's grace. May this season bring new growth to your heart and your home. Below is a snapshot of our finances through February. Blessings,

*Kae Lovaas Jewell,*  
Finance Chair

	<u>February 2026</u>	<u>2026 Year-to-Date</u>
General Fund Gifts	\$ 9,497	\$ 19,834
Less General Fund Expenses	\$ 19,579	\$ 39,676
Balance	\$ (10,082)	\$(19,842)
Less Unpaid Apportionments	\$ 2,066	\$ 4,132
Balance After Unpaid Apportionments.	\$ (12,148)	\$(23,974)

## Lenten Offering

Every year, Saint Paul's collects a special Lenten offering as a tangible way to express our faith in God and love of neighbor and creation. This year our gifts will support Neighbors Inc. and Emma Norton Services. Your generosity will make a real and profound difference in the lives of families and people in need, providing food, housing, job training, and care. Please use the special giving envelopes in the pew or just write "Lenten Offering" in the memo section of your check.



REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

# Mission Accomplished

**GATHER.  
SERVE.**

## EMMA NORTON 2026 OPENING DOORS GALA

**Thursday  
April 23**

*at the InterContinental Saint Paul  
Riverfront*

Opening Doors Gala is Emma Norton's largest and most critical fundraiser. Register at <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/odg26> by March 31 to be entered in a drawing for some fabulous Emma Norton swag.

*Early bird registration ends March 31.*

If you would like to send a gift in lieu of attendance, you can do so [here](#) or send in a check (please note "2026 Gala" in the memo area) to:

Emma Norton  
Attn: Opening Doors Gala 2026,  
2265 Hillcrest Ave,  
St. Paul MN 55116.



### Coffee With a Cause 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter

When enjoying treats on a Sunday morning, consider donating a few dollars to UMCOR's "#901670 US Disaster Response and Recovery." UMCOR was founded in 1940 in reaction to the beginnings of WWII and the troubling human impacts that were happening.

In the MN-Dakotas, recently UMCOR has helped folks recover from disasters such as the flooding in Pine Ridge in 2019, in Southern Minnesota in 2024, and helped Bemidji UMC repair their roof after the windstorm last June.

We are helping our neighbors!



WORKING TOGETHER

# Apportionments



Thank you for paying 100 percent apportionments in 2025! Your congregation is one of the 48 churches in the River Bluffs District paying 100% of their apportionments. This totals 83% of what was apportioned, an increase over last year. Apportionment giving connects us as United Methodists, working together to share the love of Jesus Christ with our communities.....Our congregations are places of hope and grace in an often-divided culture. Your apportionments support the structure of our connectional system so that we can work together to offer the love of Christ in tangible ways.....

In Christ, Rev. Michelle Hargrave



TALK WITH GOD

# Lord Hear Our Prayers

## Prayer Concerns

### Health Concerns:

All homebound with health problems

### Additional:

We pray for true peace in the Middle East: That local populations have self-determination. Where civilians and the vulnerable are protected. We grieve the lives already lost and the many yet caught in violence. We pray for a day when war is no more, when resources for unlimited war go instead to caring for those in need.

Patrick Booth, Methodist missionary from Texas who works in Cambodia

Healing for complicated and fractured family relationships

For the lonely

For an end to violence and racism in our communities

*Please contact the office, 651-452-5683, with your prayers and concerns*



## MOWING SIGN UP

We have created a landscape that adds to the health and beauty of the neighborhood and we need weekly lawn mowing volunteers to maintain it. We have a riding lawn mower and you will be instructed how to use it.

Signup sheets are available on the narthex table. Electronic signup may also be found at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080B48A5A928A1FA7-61322142-mowing>



MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

# About Us

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Adult Education: 9:00 am  
Worship: 10:00 am  
Communion: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month

## LIVESTREAM VIDEO

### WORSHIP

Available on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/stpaulsmn](http://www.facebook.com/stpaulsmn)), YouTube (St. Paul's UMC Mendota Heights) and the church's website, [www.stpaulsmn.org](http://www.stpaulsmn.org)

## CENTRAL LEADERSHIP

**CHAIR:** Deb Curran

## ST. PAUL'S STAFF:

### Director of Music Ministry:

Lane Skoglund-Anderson,  
[laneskoglund@icloud.com](mailto:laneskoglund@icloud.com)

### Administrative Assistant:

Diane Pelinka, [info@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:info@stpaulsmn.org)

## SAINT PAUL'S UNITED

### METHODIST CHURCH

700 Wesley Lane  
Mendota Heights MN 55118  
651-452-5683



Thank you to everyone who donated in support of our Polar Plunge team, Snow Much Love!  
We raised \$684 for the Special Olympics!  
We plunged at Crystal Lake on February 28 and it was BRISK.  
**The Nyhus Family**



Thank you for your prayers and kind thoughts I received after my Christmas fall. I have had great care and am moving forward each day.  
**Joe Beckers**



# April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>2</b> 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Worship w/ Communion	<b>3</b> 4:00 pm Good Friday Worship	<b>4</b>
<b>5 EASTER</b> 9:00 am Adult Ed 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion & Don Irwin <i>12:00 pm Nueva Esperanza Worship</i>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:30 am Stitching Collective Group 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:00 am Adult Ed 10:00 am Worship <i>12:00 pm Nueva Esperanza Worship</i>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 2:30 pm Outreach Mtg	<b>15</b> 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b> 1:00 pm Pathfinders	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9:00 am Adult Ed 10:00 am Worship <i>12:00 pm Nueva Esperanza Worship</i>	<b>20</b> 6:00 pm 4H  Rummage Sale Set Up	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9:00 am—3:00 pm Rummage Sale
<b>26</b> 9:00 am Adult Ed 10:00 am Worship <i>12:00 pm Nueva Esperanza Worship</i>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		

*Italicized events are conducted by outside groups renting space at the church.*

**St. Paul's United Methodist Church**

700 Wesley Lane  
Mendota Heights MN 55118

Phone: 651-452-5683  
Email: info@stpaulsmn.org

**NON PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE PAID  
TWIN CITIES MN  
PERMIT #2316**

*Address Service Requested*

*Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors*  
The People of the United Methodist Church®



**HOLY WEEK**

**PALM SUNDAY**

*Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>*

- ◆ 10:00 am Worship

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

*Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>*

- ◆ 6:30 pm Worship with Communion

**GOOD FRIDAY**

*Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>*

- ◆ 4:00 pm Worship

**EASTER SUNDAY**

*Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>*

- ◆ 10:00 am Worship with Communion & Don Irwin



**CASH ONLY**

**DATE:**  
**Saturday, April 25**

**TIME:**  
**9:00 am—3:00 pm**

**Saint Paul's UMC  
700 Wesley Lane  
Mendota Heights  
Questions?  
651-452-5683**

**DONATE OR  
HELP SORT:  
Tuesday, April 21—  
Friday, April 24;  
9:00 am—noon**

No Christmas items, major appliances, computers, or big furniture