

St. Paul Epistle




St. Paul Lutheran Church Our Vision:

We are broken and blessed followers of Christ,
providing a home for all who wander the weary road.

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2025 Jackson St.
Dubuque IA 52001
Office Hours: M-F, 9:30am - 1:30pm

 **stpauldbq.com**
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Weekly Services:
Saturday Worship: 5:30pm - Sunday Worship: 9:00am
Sunday School 10:30am - Bible Class 10:30am

DATES TO REMEMBER IN MAY 2025

May 1	Ruth Circle 10:00am
May 3	VBS Workshop 9:30am - 11am
May 6	Board of Elders Meeting 5:30pm
May 6	GriefShare Support Group 6pm - 8pm
May 8	Brown Bag Bible Study 12pm - 1:30pm
May 12	Mission Circle 6pm
May 13	GriefShare Support Group 6pm - 8pm
May 13	Board of Education Meeting 7pm at the Crawford's house
May 18	Voters Meeting 10:30am
May 18	Last Day of Sunday School
May 19	Golden Age Euchre Club 1pm
May 20	GriefShare Support Group 6pm - 8pm
May 22	Brown Bag Bible Study 12pm - 1:30pm
May 26	Memorial Day - OFFICES CLOSED
May 28	VBS Team Meeting 6:30pm
May 29	Circuit Ascension Meal & Service, St. Paul Lutheran Church, McGregor, IA 5pm - 8pm

Singing the Songs of Nameless Saints

“For all the saints, who from their labors rest
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed;
Thy name O Jesus be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!” - *William How*

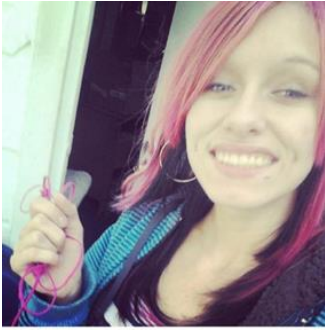
One evening after a recent confirmation class, one of our neighbors rapped on my office window and stopped in to talk. He was troubled about the death of a young friend. He knew her from around the neighborhood and said she would come by once a month or so. Knowing that she was often out on the street, he offered her his spare winter clothes and a place to sleep anytime she needed it. He told me he had seen her just days before she died. It was during a particularly cold spell in February and again he told her his door was open if she ever needed to come in and get warm. Then he found out that on the night of February 14, she froze to death in the alley between Jackson and Elm Streets near 22nd St. He told me how he had been to many funerals but her death and her funeral shook him up for some reason...“The thought that somebody could die alone like that really bothered me. I have daughters about her age.” He also mentioned that she always carried books with her. That’s when a light bulb suddenly clicked on in my brain. “What was her name?” I asked him. “Alexandria Brown,” he said. My jaw dropped. “I think I baptized her!” I quickly searched through the church register and sure enough it was her.

These are my notes from Feb. 21, 2021: “Alexandria walked in off the street after Bible Study on Sunday and wanted to be baptized. We went through the basic outline of salvation and the Small Catechism’s teaching on Baptism. She was adamant about being baptized right away. Not seeing any good reason not to, I baptized her. There were no sponsors or other witnesses present. She did not seem to be under the influence of any substances, but I cannot vouch for her mental health. I strongly encouraged her to come back for worship and consider learning more about the church. I leave it to the Holy Spirit. Just as he guided her through the doors once, he is able to bring her back. I pray that I have not acted wrongfully.”

On that day Alexandria died with Christ and was raised to new life in him forever. She did come around occasionally after that - usually after Bible study; usually with an armful of books, papers, and artwork that she had made. She insisted on giving me several books, so I gave her some in exchange. One of the books she gave me was a Psalter that looks like it has seen plenty of use. I got the impression that her life was chaotic - a patchwork of ideas, beliefs, influences, and many wrestling matches with God and demons. But amid the frenzy, it was clear that she treasured the Word of God. She loved Jesus and she knew that Jesus loved her.

The tune commonly associated with the hymn "For All the Saints" is entitled, *Sine nomine* - "without name." To many of us, Alexandria was one of those nameless saints. We may not have known her name (although her name *did* make an appearance in the March 2021 newsletter under "baptisms"). But her name is certainly known to God. It is written in the Book of Life of the

Lamb who was slain. So I wanted you to have the opportunity to meet Alexandria because she was one of us: a broken and blessed follower of Christ who found a home, if only a fleeting one, here along the weary road. We look forward to seeing her in the Resurrection of all flesh.



Alexandria Evalena-Ann Brown
May 23, 1995 - February 17, 2025



Pastor Joe

Upcoming article previews:

Why is There a Coffin in Church?

If you've been in church lately, no doubt you've noticed the coffin on the altar! One of our members, part of the Board of Elders, Trevor Budewitz, works at Trappist Caskets and made the coffin for the "burial" of the Alleluias on Transfiguration Sunday and "resurrection" on Easter. Thanks Trevor!



WITNESS

WOMEN OF ST. PAUL

Our next Mission Circle meeting will be on Monday, May 12th at 6pm. We would love to see some new faces--all are welcome. This will be our last meeting for the summer. *President Nancy Henry*



MERCY



The Salvation Army Food Pantry - For the month of May we are collecting the following items for the Food Pantry:

<i>Tuna</i>	<i>Spaghetti Sauce</i>	<i>Canned Fruit</i>
<i>Pasta</i>	<i>Garden Produce</i>	<i>Toilet Tissue</i>
<i>Toothpaste</i>	<i>Deodorant</i>	



LIFE TOGETHER

UPCOMING BIBLE STUDY TOPICS

- **Lutheranism 101** - Mondays 9am - 10am. This is open to everyone. A great way to get a refresher on the core teachings of the faith.
- **Sunday Adult Class:** New Topic beginning in May -Book of the Bible (TBA)
- **Brown Bag Bible Study** - Brown Bag Bible Study will be May 8th & 22nd at 12:00pm bring a lunch. Coffee and dessert provided.

PRAYER CHAIN: Need "Links" for prayer chain - simple as phoning a friend to continue prayers. Please call 563-588-1076 ASAP! God Bless!
Karen Paar

PASTOR'S SCHEDULE FOR MAY

Days off - May 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th

OFFICIAL ACTS – APRIL 2024

Baptisms: *Gabe Johnson*
Junior Confirmation: None
Adult Confirmation: None
Weddings: None
Transfer In: None
Transferred Out: None
New Members: None
Funeral/Memorial: None



ALTAR FLOWERS UPDATE: If you have not signed up to have flowers on the altar now is the time. We have 9 weeks open. The flower chart is in the fellowship hall. Cost remains at \$30 with payment made to St Paul and ear-marked "flowers" at the time of sign up. Put the payment in envelopes provided with necessary information filled in, and place in the offering plate. Please check if you will take after Sunday service or leave for shut ins. We continue to ask you to return the glass bowls for reuse. Questions-Charlotte Tigges 563 599 2745



ALTAR GUILD! There is currently a great need for altar guild helpers. If you are willing to help clean the communion vessels after services or polish metalware twice a year, please call the church office or send an email to the church secretary.

JUNE NEWSLETTER info is due by **FRIDAY MAY 22ND**

RUTH CIRCLE: We want to remind all our church members of the greeting cards we have for sale. The proceeds from the card sales go to cleaning the Pastor's vestments and purchasing the altar linen. We have the following boxes of cards available: Graduation, Confirmation, Birthday, Anniversary, Thinking of You, Get Well, Sympathy, Wedding, and Christmas. The next meeting will be Thursday, May 1st at 10:00am.

BOARD OF MISSION & MINISTRY

GOOD NEIGHBOR FUND: Please feel free to designate an offering to the Good Neighbor Fund to help meet the needs of our church family and neighbors in their time of challenge.

GREIFSHARE

No matter what the circumstances, grief is a painful process. The GriefShare grief support group for people dealing with the death of a family member or friend. GriefShare is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Over 13 weeks, you'll find relief and comfort as you learn what to expect in the days ahead and how to navigate your personal grief process. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way.

Please join us: Tuesday evenings, May 6- June 3, 2025 from 6-8 PM at St. Paul Lutheran, 2025 Jackson St.

Notes + News from the **Board of Christian Education**



May 18

10:30am
Last day of
Sunday School

May 24 + 25

5:30pm (Sat.)/9am (Sun)
Graduate
Recognition

June 8-12

6-8pm (supper at 5:30)
Vacation
Bible School



Vacation Bible School

June 8-12, 2025 | 6-8pm (supper at 5:30)

Plan a trip to Egypt, where God's Word comes alive as participants enjoy traditional Bible-times customs, occupations, food, and even games, while hearing about God's faithfulness and provision from Joseph! **To register, visit tinyurl.com/stpvbs2025** or scan the QR code!



Opportunities to serve + be involved

Week of VBS:

- **Family group leader** - low/no prep, a friend + helper who guides participants through VBS
- **Egyptian shopkeeper** - some prep, leads small groups of students through a specific project (flexible if not available the whole week)
- **Registration/Welcome crew**

Behind-the-scenes prep:

- **Work day - May 3, 9-11 am** - Gather supplies, build set pieces, general preparation
- **Set-up day - June 7, 9-11 am** - Clean out key spaces, set up marketplace tents, decorate
- **Supply donations** - look for tags with needed items in the fellowship hall throughout May

Questions? Connect with Katy Crawford (katy.munson@gmail.com, 815.876.6426) or Kendra Lafrenz (kendra9897@gmail.com) if you have any questions or would like to be involved!

WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE DIED IN MAY

Herbert Bailey David Hassler

PRAYER LIST FOR MAY 2025

Mindful of the Father's great mercy shown to us in Jesus, we pray on behalf of those who are in need.

For those undergoing cancer treatment:

Roger Riechmann (father of Teri Riechmann & Sheila Zasada)
Jayme Niemeier (nephew of Dave & Sue Krause)
Raymond Kruser (brother-in-law of Dave & Sue Krause)
Zeke Pergande (son of Dan & Doris Pergande)
Mark Geothschius (brother of A.J. Osterkamp)
Toni Jo Stelpflug (niece of Doris Pergande)
Brittni Strege (niece to Richard & Kim Weed)
Rhonda Kittle (sister-in-law to Greg Kittle)
Matthew Kittle (brother of Greg Kittle)
Jerry (family friend of Richard & Kim Weed)
Rocco DiMaggio (relative of Pastor Crawford)
Kenny Stelpflug (brother of Doris Pergande)
Dan Pergande, Debra Spear, Richard Weed, Jill Adams

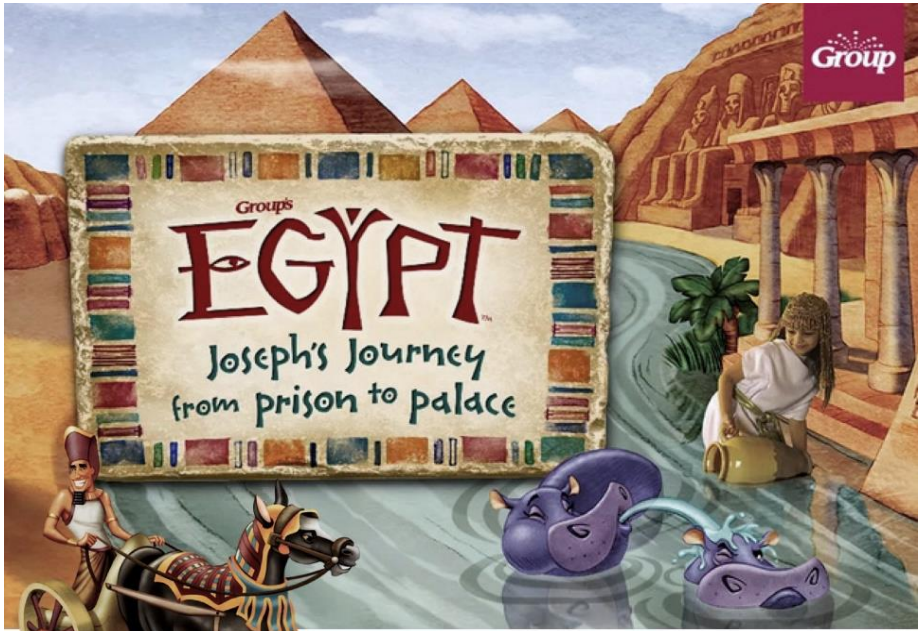
For our members who are homebound:

Laverne Ball (Ennoble Manor), Nancy Clark, Jean Henningsen (Sunnycrest Manor), Doris Pergande, Anne Prisk (Care Initiatives), Dusty Colby, Judy Pergande, Jayson Eichman (Harmony), Damaris Eichman, Jan Anderson

Additional Prayer Requests

- Lori Ollendick (daughter of Charlotte Tigges)
- The Walker family
- Donetta Spohr
- Diane Schultz
- Marlene Weber
- Abigail Mehner (great great niece of Mary Ann McGeough)

**Note: The "additional" section of the prayer list will be cleared at the beginning of each month. If you would like a name to remain on the list into the next month, please contact the church office and we would be happy to continue praying for your intention.*



VBS 2025

**SUNDAY JUNE 8-
THURSDAY JUNE 12**

MEAL AT 5:30 PM
PROGRAM 6-8 PM

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN
CHURCH
2025 JACKSON ST.
DUBUQUE, IA 52001**

Welcome to your 2025 Holy Land Adventure VBS—where the Bible comes to life right before your eyes! At Egypt, everyone gets to explore first-hand the culture of Joseph's world. Alongside Joseph, they'll experience this unique Bible hero's heartbreaking trials, joyous victories, and tear-filled celebrations.

Ages 3 (& potty trained) thru 11



SCAN ME

 *St. Paul Lutheran Church*



MAY

anniversaries

2-Barry & Pat Walen
14-Jim & Marion Crowe
20-Keith & Shirley Calonder
9-Rich & Linda Ratka
17-Charlie & Lisa Wehrspann



BAPTISMS

1-David Oppelt, III
14-Kathy Patton
20-Ron Schap
22-Hallie Oppelt
3-Colby Lafrenz
14-Anne Prisk
22-Natalie Adams
25-Andrew Bain
13-Tom Unsen
20-Karen Paar
22-Annika Crawford



MAY

birthdays

1-Megan Schickel
20-Julianna Thibadeau
24-Logan Zasada
25-Evan Frey
29-Zachary Hassler
4-Ron Schap
21-Rosie Zasada
25-Jennifer Calonder
26-Patty Walen
31-Olivia Weber
5-Rich Ratka
22-Josie Thibadeau
25-Erica Frey
29-LaVerne Ball

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR MAY 2025

	Sat, May 3, 5:30pm	Sun, May 4, 9:00am
Head Usher:	Dennis Fry	Mark Litka
Altar Guild:	Kristie Fry	
Organist:	David Pitt	David Pitt
	Sat, May 10, 5:30pm	Sun, May 11 9:00am
Head Usher:	Dave Kelley	Adam Hill
Altar Guild:	N/A	N/A
Organist:	David Pitt	David Pitt
	Sat, May 17, 6:30am	Sun May 18, 10:00am
Head Usher:	Jon Barz	Greg Kittle
Altar Guild:	N/A	N/A
Organist:	David Pitt	David Pitt
	Sat, May 24, 5:30pm	Sun May 25, 9:00am
Head Usher:	Dennis Fry	Jon Lutz
Altar Guild:	N/A	A.J. & Angela Osterkamp
Organist:	David Pitt	David Pitt
	Sat, May 31, 5:30pm	Sun June 1, 9:00am
Head Usher:	Dennis Fry	Mark Litka
Altar Guild:	N/A	Becky Clark
Organist:	David Pitt	David Pitt