



Jesus,
whom you killed,
God exalted

St. Paul Lutheran Church (NALC)

Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026

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Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church. We are glad to have you.

Our prayers include those in nursing homes and home bound: Mary Ann McCallister, Helen Lyons, Susie Leonhardt, Servicemen: Andrew Gendron, Pastor Brodie Taphorn.

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God in memory of Charles Britton by Kate Britton.

Flowers on the Organ are given by the family of Walter Schimpf in honor of his many years of singing in the choir.

We extend our sympathy to Pastors Brodie & Andrea Taphorn on the death of her Mother. She passed away April 3, 2026. Services will be held Saturday, May 9, 2026 at 1:00 pm at Atone-ment Lutheran church 1621 Francisco Rd. Columbus, Oh 43220.

Geneva Cleland passed away April 7. Graveside services were conducted by Pastor Andrea Taphorn on April 10 at Oakwood Cemetery, Bucyrus.

The family of Walter Schimpf will be hosting a cookie reception today after worship for his many years of singing in the choir. The congregation is invited to stay and help celebrate.

Church Council will meet after worship this morning.

Boatrockers evening Bible study will resume Wednesday, April 15th at 6:30 pm.

Those persons interested in applying for the Robert & Ruby Schimpf Scholarship can pick up information from Joyce Schanzenbach in the church office or see John Britton. Qualifications include: currently enrolled as a college student (Fall of 2026); full time student (12 credits per semester); have a minimum 2.6 GP; an active member of St. Paul Lutheran Church Sulphur springs. If no education majors apply, the scholarship is open to other major fields of study. All forms should be returned by June 1.

Giving for The Lord's Ministry April 5, 2026

Benevolence	155.00
Current	3,956.00
Feed Crawford County	100.00
Filling Home	55.00
Good Friday	55.00
God Squad	100.00
Lutheran Home of Mercy	50.00
Missionary	15.00
Maundy Thursday	10.00
NALC Seminary	225.00
NALC Disaster Relief	80.00
Orphans and Old Folks Home	35.00
Special Projects	115.00
Total	\$4,951.00

Attendance 169 Communion 131

Maundy Thursday attendance 56
Communion 56

Maundy Thursday \$610.00
Good Friday 50.00
Total \$660.00

Good Friday attendance 54

Good Friday \$503.00
Maundy Thursday 10.00
Total \$513.00

Anyone wanting to donate to the NALC Disaster Response may mark your envelopes accordingly. Donations aid tornado and other natural disaster victims.

Looking to connect with Pastor Andrea? You're always welcome to stop by during office hours: **Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9:00 AM—Noon.** If another time works better for you, feel free to call the church office or reach out directly to Pastor Andrea (614) 256-4318 to set up an appointment. She'd love to hear from you!

This Week at St. Paul

Sunday	Sunday School 9 AM Worship 10 AM Church Council after worship Cookie Reception for Walter Schimpf after worship
Wednesday	Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM
Sunday	Sunday School 9 AM Worship 10 AM

The St. Paul worship services and sermons are recorded and available to watch on the web page at www.stpaulsulphur.com or on St. Paul Lutheran Church Sulphur Springs, Ohio YouTube. A live feed of the worship service is available downstairs in the high school room.

St. Paul Lutheran Church
4707 Ridgeton Rd. Bucyrus, Ohio
419-562-5858
Pastor Andrea Taphorn
Pastor Brodie Taphorn
David Halsey, Lay Assistant
Organist Kathy Sheets, Assistant Karen Schimpf
Secretary, Joyce Schanzenbach
Choir Director, Roxanne Shipman
Bell Choir, Cindy Hopkins
Church Council President, John Britton
Sunday School Superintendent, Jill Rittenour
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His Power, Our Hope

Human beings have powerfully achieved many advances in science and medicine through a growing understanding of the universe. But when confronted with the harsh reality of death, we are powerless.

God, on the other hand, is all powerful. Yet, in mercy, He has chosen to use His power for us, breaking the power of death and giving us life. That is the basis of the Christian's joy and hope in the face of death. We have been redeemed by the precious blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ, shed for us on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. God has robbed death and the grave of their icy grip. He washes us clean from sin in the water of Baptism. God nourishes and sustains us by Christ's body and blood in Holy Communion. His Word of promise provides a sure foundation for us.

Christ is alive. He who raised the Lord Jesus from His grave will also raise us from ours. Through Christ, we share in the resurrection of the dead. And one day, we will celebrate the marriage feast with all His saints in eternal praise. By His power, God has provided a way for us in spite of our powerlessness. Therein lies our hope for our life now and for the life that is to come.

Lord Jesus Christ, You overcame the sting of death for us. In You, we have certain hope for the final victory You have promised. Amen.

PORTALS of PRAYER

Adapted from *Portals of Prayer* © Concordia Publishing House
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Easter

About the Cover: Peter's convicting words that were given to the leadership to bring about repentance are applied to us as well. For God exalted Christ to deliver the forgiveness of sins by faith in Him. All of us have been born into and contributed to the sin that put Christ to death. When we are convicted of our sin by the work of God's Law on our hearts, it is always in order to bring about repentance and faith in Christ, our Savior, who has been raised for our justification.

The Word of God



Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026

Prayer of the Day

Help us, almighty God, that our joyful celebration of the resurrection feast may be reflected in our daily work and conversation. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Acts 5:29-42

²⁹Peter and the apostles answered {the high priest and the council}, "We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." ³³When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. ³⁴But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. ³⁵And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. ³⁶For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. ³⁸So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; ³⁹but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice, ⁴⁰and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not

to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ⁴²And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

Psalm 148

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;*
praise him | in the heights.

²**Praise him, all you an- | gels of his;*
praise him, | all his host.**

³Praise him, | sun and moon;*
praise him, all you | shining stars.

⁴**Praise him, heav- | en of heavens,*
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**

⁵Let them praise the name | of the LORD;*
for he commanded, and they | were created.

⁶**He made them stand fast forev- | er and ever;*
he gave them a law which shall not | pass away.**

⁷Praise the LORD | from the earth,*
you sea monsters | and all deeps;

⁸**Fire and hail, | snow and fog,*
tempestuous wind, do- | ing his will;**

⁹Mountains | and all hills,*
fruit trees | and all cedars;

¹⁰**Wild beasts | and all cattle,*
creeping things and | winged birds;**

¹¹Kings of the earth | and all peoples,*
princes and all rulers | of the world;

¹²**Young | men and maidens,*
old and | young together.**

¹³Let them praise the name | of the LORD,*
for his name only is exalted,
his splendor is over | earth and heaven.

¹⁴**He has raised up strength for his people
and praise for all his | loyal servants,*
the children of Israel, a people who are near him. | Hallelujah!**

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith — more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel: John 20:19-31

¹⁹On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²²And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." ²⁴Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." ²⁶Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Lessons for Next Week: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-16;
1 Peter 1:17-25; Luke 24:13-35

For Holy Communion

Holy Father, you have invited us to the banquet of your Son. We thank you for this gift of grace and for your promise of forgiveness. Lead us to your table with humble and repentant hearts, so that we may hear your Word for us. Make us mindful of your presence with us as we share in communion with you and one another. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For the Start of a New Growing Season

God of all creation, in many parts of your world the creation has begun its annual process of rebirth. As shoots sprout forth from the earth and trees put forth their buds, help us to see in these everyday miracles a hint of the promised glory of our own resurrection through your Son, Jesus. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Reconciliation and Peace

God of mercy, teach us to recognize the priceless treasures of grace and reconciliation you have given us in your Son, Jesus and then to be bold and generous in offering that same grace to those who may have hurt us. In a world divided on many fronts, may your Spirit lead us to be agents of reconciliation and peace. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Healing and Wholeness

Healer of our every ill, in every corner of the world your children suffer in mind, body, and spirit. Many lack the basic necessities for life—clean water, nutritious food, and adequate shelter. Others find themselves overcome with grief and despair, while still others face the challenges of medical concerns. Empower your church to be sources of healing and wholeness and voices of hope. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.