

April 2026

Greetings from the Pastor

HE IS ALIVE



HE IS ALIVE

This should be the first three words of the Gospel “Jesus is alive!” The other narratives are called “the rest of the story.” The main story is resurrection, and it is the most incredible thing that happened in human history. A man named Jesus was killed and was buried and after three days rose again to life and showed himself to his disciples. What does it mean for the world? What does it mean for you and me?

There’s probably a plethora of questions associated with the event that Jesus rose from the dead. Why didn’t he show himself to the temple? The world would have believed if he showed himself to the kings and Emperor. Why did he leave and go to heaven? He could have established the Kingdom of God on earth all by himself.

To raise questions and find answers about Christ is called Christology. If the question is about God, then it is Theology. Christology is a study that is open to all. It is not exclusive to theologians and seminarians. I would admonish that each Christian should have their own clear Christology. Who is Jesus to you? What did he do? What does it mean to you?

This is important because there are many Christologies out there and every preacher could present a convincing lesson that many would embrace for themselves. But what is most interesting to God is for each individual to discover for himself/herself who Christ is. I have said many times, every message that is preached usually gets interpretation in as many listeners.

A rebellious preacher can present Christ as a rebel who defied the priests and pharisees. A spiritual preacher can present Christ as a contemplative monk who frequented isolation up the mountain to commune with God. Methodists would present Christ as a social person and say that there is no holiness except social holiness.

Who is Christ to you? Probably, your answer would depend on what your spiritual need could be. There are universal needs that make Christology similar such as forgiveness of sin and the hope of salvation.

What’s interesting is that Christ is able to relate with anyone. Christ is the Lord of both the living and the dead.

Christ is the Savior of all who wants to reset their lives from all the failures and heartaches of yesterday.

Christ is the Answer to all the plethora of questions in the world. He sends the Holy Spirit to assist everyone on a journey of discovering the answers. There is assurance that you will find the answer when you find Christ. You will surely find him. Because He is Alive and He has been looking for you. Amen.

Pastor Emelyn Castillo-Colorado
Rev. Dr. Moody Colorado

Lay Leader Notes

By Cindy Morse

Greetings to my St. Paul Church family----

As I am sitting at my computer, we have had several days of warnings about blizzard conditions coming our way. At 4:25 p.m., this has not occurred yet, yes, the wind is blowing with a few snow flurries and lots of events have been canceled for the day.

Spring is coming, slowly, as it always seems to be in Iowa!! Let's all remember that patience is a virtue.

Two articles I want to share with you for the month of April, the first article is entitled " Why worshipping together in person is important".

As church attendance numbers fade across the nation, and online services become very convenient it's important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much. You can't serve from your sofa, you can't have a community of faith on your sofa, you can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together on your sofa.

Christians aren't consumers. We are contributors. We don't watch, we engage. We give, we sacrifice, we encourage. We pray by laying hands on the hurting. We live life together.

The church needs you and you need the church.

The second topic I want to share is entitled Self-Care. We are an aging society, and taking care of ourselves is important.

This comes from a book entitled "The Language of Letting Go" by Melody Beattie.

Rest when you're tired.

Take a drink of cold water when you're thirsty.

Call a friend when you're lonely.

Ask God to help when you feel overwhelmed.

Many of us have learned how to deprive and neglect ourselves.

Many of us have learned to push ourselves hard, when the problem is that we're already pushed too hard.

Many of us are afraid the work won't get done; it will be done better than work that emerges from tiredness of soul and spirit.

Nurtured, nourished people, who love themselves and care for themselves, are the delight of the Universe.

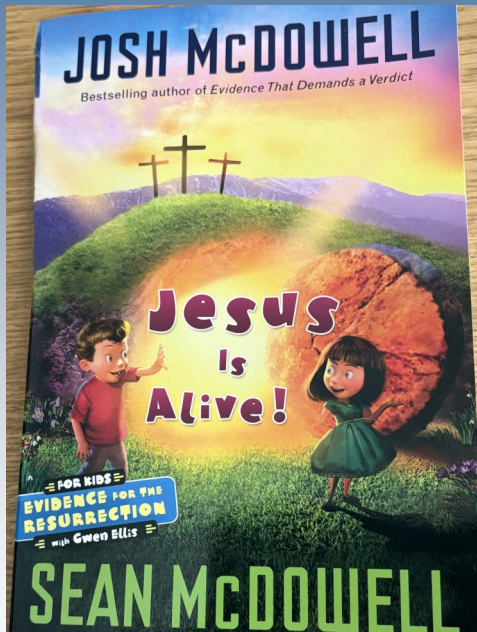
They are well-timed, efficient, and Divinely led.

Today I will practice loving self-care.

As we are entering the Holy Week of Easter, remember that God is always with us. Spending time with family, when possible, attend a Holy Week service if possible.

Stay Safe, Stay Healthy, and Stay in Love with God.

Library News



Jesus' followers believed that he was the person God promised to send who would free them from the Romans, the cruel invaders who had taken over their land. So when the Romans sentenced Jesus to die on a cross, his followers' hopes were crushed. How could Jesus free them if he was dead? But his death wasn't the end of the story...

Because people don't normally come back to life, it might be tempting to believe that it has never happened. But now you can see the proof for yourself!

Outreach Opportunity

Our congregation has a heart for missions. Thank you goes to your generosity for:

- ◆ Lenten and Easter giving
- ◆ Birthday Box giving
- ◆ Noisy Sunday gifts for orphanages.

We will be having a speaker from the Gideons coming this spring. The Gideons give Bibles to people from many languages and many countries.

May God bless you
as you bless others

Finance Update

March	01	\$2751.00
February	01	\$1722.00
February	08	\$ 480.00
February	22	\$2218.00



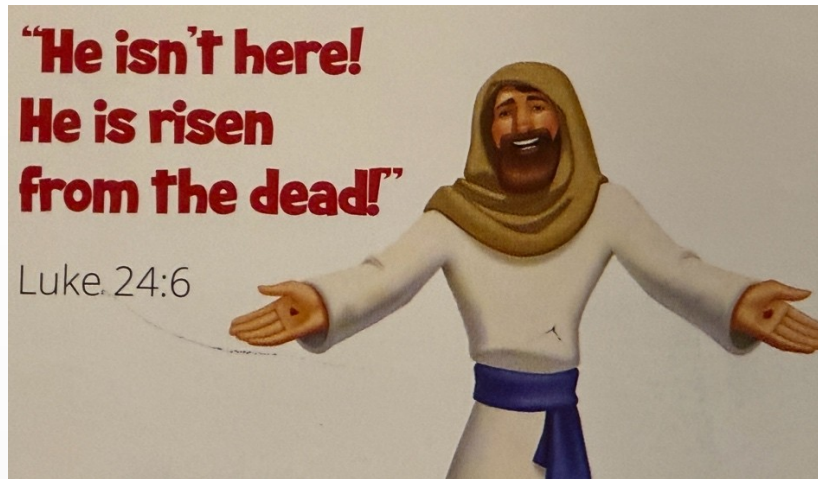
We are in need of over \$15,000 each month to meet our budget needs.

Thank you for all your ways of giving.

offerings

Education

April 4 Easter Sunday (no Sunday School)



April 12 Senior Recognition Sunday
April 26 Children Choir sing in Church
May 10 Last Day of Sunday School
Mother's Day!



VBS 2026
June 22-25th!!
RAINFOREST FALLS
"Exploring the Nature of God"



United Women in Faith

Spring is right around the corner and warm sunny days will soon be here. Robins and Red Wing Black Birds have arrived and will be making their nest. Soon God will be awakening all the trees, bushes and flowers and new leaves and buds will soon be appearing on them. Perhaps this is the year that you will plant some new flowers to brighten up your yard. Maybe you will plant a garden. I hear you can plant a lot of vegetables in buckets... The seed catalogs are in the mail and it's time to get out and enjoy the beautiful weather.

During Lent we have been preparing our hearts and minds for Easter Sunday and what Easter means to our Faith and to our lives. This month I will be sharing a reading from a Lenten Booklet that our church put together in 1994.

A TIME FOR REFLECTION, WORSHIP, AND CELEBRATION

The butterfly is a fascinating symbol of the message of Easter, the message of new life in Christ, of rebirth, of being "born again". Its meaning is derived from the three stages in its life as represented by the caterpillar, the chrysalis and then finally the butterfly. These are clearly the symbols of life and death and resurrection and parallel the life of the Christian, reborn in Christ, a new creation. The legend of the Butterfly expresses it so well.

"When our Lord was crucified, all nature wept. The very earth trembled in anguish, and every Creature of God was filled with sorrow. The trees shed their leaves, the flowers lost their petals, and outside the tomb of the Lord a tiny caterpillar spun itself a shroud of silk in preparation for death.

Then on the third day, Christ arose from the dead gloriously, and triumphantly, and left the tomb to walk again among the beauties of nature that He loved so much. He saw the silken cocoon and touched it. Suddenly, the caterpillar burst forth in new splendor- a butterfly of breathtaking beauty, rising heavenward with new life. Even so today, the butterfly testifies every Spring to the miracle of resurrection and the beauty of God's great love."

Prayer: Thank you God for the miracle of rebirth, for the hope and promise of new life in Christ. Without that, where would we be? Thank you for your love toward us expressed in your creation, the butterfly.
Amen

Our scripture for this month is found in John 10:10.

"I come that you might have life and have it more abundantly."

Blessing to you and your loved ones as we celebrate Easter together.

Pat and Charlene

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 4:00p.m. Chimes singing @ Care Facility Choir Practice @ 5:00 p.m.	2 Maundy Thursday	3 Good Friday 7:00 p.m.	4
5 NO Sunday School <i>Easter Worship</i> @ 10:00 a.m.	6 Bible Study @ 1:30 p.m.	7 Shawl Ministry @ 2:00 p.m.	8 SPRC 5:00 p.m.	9 Finance Mtg. 10:00 a.m.	10	11 Private Baby Shower Fellowship Hall
12 Sunday School @ 8:45 <i>Membership</i> @8:30 a.m. <i>Worship @</i> 10:00 a.m.	13 Bible Study @ 1:30 p.m.	14 Shawl Ministry @ 2 Trustees @ 5:30 p.m. Ad Council @ 6:30 p.m.	15 Joy Circle @ 9:00 a.m.	16	17	18
19 Sunday School @ 8:45 <i>Worship @</i> 10:00 a.m.	20 Bible Study @ 1:30 p.m.	21 Shawl Ministry @ 2:00 p.m.	22	23 Care Facility 10:00 a.m.	24	25
26 Sunday School @ 8:45 <i>Worship @</i> 10:00 a.m. <i>Children Sing</i>	27 Bible Study @ 1:30 p.m.	28 Shawl Ministry @ 2:00 p.m. Meekness @ 7:00 p.m.	29	30		

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