



Dispatches from The Office

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor

The Body of God

New Processional Cross Coming Soon

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross." (Colossians 1:15–20, ESV)

A year ago, our Sunday "Life Application Bible Study" considered "The Body of God," the Scriptures and history of the cross and the crucifix (cross with a body or corpus) in Christian art and evangelism. It was a fascinating study. Both cross and crucifix have long histories of use in the church, going back to the early centuries. We noted the history of use prior to and after the Reformation. Lutherans never shunned the depiction of Christ on the cross, but rejoiced in it. Many LCMS founding fathers, including C.F.W. Walther and other 19th century Lutheran settlers, brought crucifixes with them from Germany or made them from native timber when they arrived. Many have argued through the centuries—and I wholeheartedly agree—that no single work of art preaches the Gospel more clearly than the depiction of Christ on the cross. Our Lord is absolutely clear about the importance of preaching and teaching the death of Christ when He says through St. Paul, ". . . We preach Christ crucified. . ." (1 Corinthians 1:23) Furthermore, it is on the cross that Jesus said, "It is finished!" (Jn 19.30) Christians—especially Lutherans—are "not ashamed of the Gospel." (Rm 1.16) Thus, when we see Christ on the cross we say, "Thanks be to God!"

After studying "The Body of God," a number of people made donations for the purpose of purchasing a custom-made new processional cross for St. Paul's. The elders affirmed the funded project, and when it arrives, the new processional cross will be dedicated in memory of †Rev. Dr. Paul Borgman† who served St. Paul's from actively from 1982 to his retirement (There was a brief interlude at Lutheran Counseling and Family Services near the end of his full-time ministry). After his retirement, Pastor Borgman was a constant support to the ministry here until his death in 2019.

This new processional cross will add another historic and important piece of ecclesiastical art to a sanctuary that already teaches the Christian faith well in many ways. Though the project is fully-funded, those who wish to do so may contribute a special offering for the cross, and we will use any extra funds for pastoral care support during my sabbatical this summer.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Lance O'Donnell
Thursday of Lent 5
26 March, A.D. 2026



stewardship

A Better Way

The most common question about stewardship is not whether a Christian should give to their church. Of course, Christians should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most is, “How much should I give?” But this question really means, “Should Christians give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?”

Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isn’t necessary because it isn’t expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no “Thus saith the Lord,” or “should” concerning tithing. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn’t tithe because of some fear. They are afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or that after tithing, there won’t be enough left over to get the things that they use, want or need.

Here are some reasons why Christians should tithe. Even though the New Testament doesn’t specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of one’s income — terms similar to a tithe (2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here’s another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? “The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechism’s Table of Duties to explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we’re not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let’s answer this by asking a different question. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? After all, there is no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest verse we have, and it states simply that Christians should not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? The conversation might go something like this. I’m glad you’re still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God’s promises of forgiveness, life and salvation, and to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I’d really like you to try to attain it.

We should approach the topic of tithing with a similar conversation. The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, we’re ecstatic that you’re giving, and that you’re giving in all these various ways — time, talents and treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God — Old and New Testament alike — promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disappoint.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Mother/Daughter/Friend Banquet

Sponsored by Sisters In Service

Tuesday, May 12

5:30pm - Fellowship and Cocktails

6:30pm - Dinner

Program—Evening of Song

Presented by:

Oconomowoc Community Choir

Oconomowoc Golf Club

W360 N5261 BrownStreet, Oconomowoc

Adults - \$40 (includes gratuity) Children (3 to 12) - \$15 (includes gratuity)

Please make checks payable to: "Ladies Aid"

Menu:

French Pork Chop with peppercorn sauce

Au Gratin Potatoes

California Blend Vegetables

Salad

Rolls

Ice Cream Dessert

Menu:

Chicken Tenders

French Fries

Fruit

Ice Cream Dessert



Bring Hard Candy
Flavors: Root Beer,
Peppermint, Lemon



Purchase Tickets:

Church Office (262-567-5001)

Mary Lou Pagenkopf (262-308-8184)

Terrie Seifert (262-490-0649)

Vicky Tuder (414-699-8045)

Judy Braatz (262-266-4841)

Sue Lindemann (262-567-8985)

April 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 April Fools Day 10¢ per smile today	2 Maundy Thursday 25¢	3 GOOD Friday 50¢	4 Easter Vigil Attended ? Yes-15¢ No-30¢
5 He is Risen! HE IS RISEN INDEED! \$1	6 Lucas Cranach & Albrecht Durer* Artists	7 LWML meets tonight Attending? Yes 20¢ No-25¢	8 Think SPRING! Feed your Mite Box some GREEN	9 Did you eat jellybeans today? Yes-20¢ No-10¢	10 Fish Fry tonight? Yes-10¢ No-20¢	11 Be a good steward of God's Grace 1 Peter 7-11
12 Second Sunday of Easter \$1	13 Pray for our Mission Grant Goal 25¢	14 Spring Jacket today? Yes-10 No-20¢	15 Tax Refund? Yes-50¢ No-25¢	16 Rain today? Yes-20¢ No 15¢	17 Read Psalm 23 50¢	18 LWML Spring Rally St. John, Sullivan JOIN US! 25¢
19 Third Sunday of Easter \$1	20 Johannes Bugenhagen* Pastor 25¢	21 Anselm of Canterbury* Theologian 25¢	22 Earth Day 20¢	23 10¢ for each trip to the grocery store this week	24 Johann Walter* Kantor 30¢	25 ST. MARK Evangelist 40¢
26 Fourth Sunday of Easter \$1	27 15¢ if you know the missionary St. Paul's LWML supports Don't know 30¢	28 Started spring cleaning? Yes-15¢ No-40¢	29 25¢ if you have never checked the LWML website 10¢ if you have	30 Thank God for SPRING! 25¢		

MITEs MAY BE RETURNED in the Large Mite Box in Narthex. Additional Mite Boxes for personal use are also available.

***Commemoration Days are examples of those in whom the saving work of Jesus Christ has been made manifest to the glory of His holy name and to the praise of His grace and mercy.**

APRIL 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 12:15 pm Holy Wednesday Worship 6:30 pm Holy Wednesday Worship	2 12:15 pm Maundy Thursday Worship 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Worship	3 NO SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSED 12:15 pm Good Friday Chief Worship 8:00 pm Good Friday Tenebrae Worship	4 8:00 am YG Easter Breakfast Set-Up 8:00 am Women of Joy 12:15 pm Holy Saturday Worship NO 5:00 pm WORSHIP 8:00 pm Easter Vigil
5 6:00 am Easter Divine Worship 7:00 am Easter Breakfast 8:00 am Easter Divine Worship 10:30 am Easter Divine Worship	6 NO SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSED 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru	7 6:00 pm LWML	8 6:30 pm W.O.W.: Lutheran Basics	9 5:30 pm Sisters in Service 6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	10	11 7:30 am Journeymen 5:00 pm Divine Worship
12 8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship 7:00 pm HS Youth Group	13	14 5:30 pm Operations Cmte Mtg 6:00 pm Board of Elders Mtg	15 6:30 pm W.O.W.: Lutheran Basics	16 6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	17	18 8:00 am Women of Joy 5:00 pm Divine Worship
19 8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Coffee Fellowship Hour 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship 11:45 am MS & HS Youth Bowling 5:00 pm Reformation Tap Society 7:00 pm HS Youth Group	20 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru & Meal	21 5:30 pm CLT Meeting	22 6:30 pm W.O.W.: Lutheran Basics	23 1:00 pm New Member Sponsor Cmte Mtg 6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	24	25 7:30 am Journeymen 5:00 pm Divine Worship
26 8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship 12:00 pm All Youth Activity	27	28	30 6:30 pm W.O.W.: Lutheran Basics			

FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Baptisms

John Michael, son of Zachary & Krista (Klumpenhouwer) Zellmer
Grayson Johannes, son of Trenton & Raja (Stephens) Schroeder

Transfer from another LCMS Church

Paul & Carol Fischer—Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hartland, WI

Baptized 2039 Confirmed 1253



Piggly Wiggly Receipt fundraiser

If you shop at Piggly Wiggly, please deposit your receipts in the designated box in Fellowship Hall. The money raised from your receipts helps to continue the programming for our youth.

April Events

- April 4th Easter Breakfast Set-Up 8am
- April 5th Easter Breakfast/NO YOUTH GROUP
- April 12th HS Youth Group 7-8:30pm
- April 19th HS Youth Group 7-8:30pm
- April 26th ALL YOUTH ACTIVITY 12-3pm

REFORMATION TAP SOCIETY

Theology and conversation with a bit of hops.



*ADULTS 18 AND OLDER

April 19, 2026

Prayer: Entering the Triune Conversation

Presenter: Silas Hasselbrook

5:00-7:00 pm
@ BrewFinity

N58 W39800 Industrial Rd., Suite D
Oconomowoc WI 53066
www.brewfinitbrewing.com

**First time guests
get a free
beer or soda on us!**

April & May Hymn of the Month: *Now, All the Vault of Heaven Resounds* (number 465 in *Lutheran Service Book*)

This powerful tune first appeared in a German hymnal in the seventeen hundreds, but it was based on tunes that were even older. Since it was written it has been paired with majestic and celebratory texts, four of which are included in LSB. This text was written by Paul Zeller Strodach while he was serving on a committee for a new hymnal in 1947.

The hymn begins with all of heaven proclaiming Christ's triumph over sin, death, and the devil through His resurrection. The third stanza is a simple prayer asking Jesus to fill us with His love so that we can live in the truth of His victory each day. The hymn ends with a doxology, singing praise to our Triune God.



Female Church Work Scholarship applications are due April 30, 2026 for the 2026-2027 school year. Active female members of congregations of the SWD LCMS who are residents of SWD prior to college and are preparing for full-time church work in the LCMS are eligible to apply. The application is available at lwml-swd.org.

Our own Heidi Hahn was a former recipient.

Save the Date: Saturday, April 18th, at St. John, Sullivan. Zone 17 is hosting a SPECIAL opportunity at our Spring Rally for anyone in our congregation to come and learn of all the exciting mission happenings in our South Wisconsin District from our District President Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador and ways you can help. Registration and refreshments at 9:00 am with the program beginning at 9:30. We encourage anyone interested to attend and bring a friend! You won't want to miss it! We will be collecting items for the SOS center (Strength of Savior) in Milwaukee. Items needed are Christian journals, reading and math teaching aids (flash cards, etc), Ready to Read books (various grade levels) and sketch pads. These items are all available at The Dollar Store.

Join us for our next meeting, Tuesday, April 7th, at 6:00 pm in room 219. Remember your MITES!

Spring Will Soon Be Here!

The "Church Garden Ladies" (70+) are looking for some help with the church gardens and landscape around the church which requires several hours per week to maintain. We would like to divide the chores into assigned short term tasks (2 weeks) or small sections for various tasks (weeding, deadheading, etc.) over the summer. If you would be willing to help, please contact Pat Menden (262-719-6008) for more information and choice of assignments. We also will need help planting 9+ flats of annuals before Memorial Day. Please contact us if you would like to be on a call list for date and time as weather permits. Many hands make light work!



Sisters in Service

Hello women of St. Paul's! Sisters in Service has an important announcement!

Our April meeting will be held a week later than normal because of Holy Week. We will meet on Thursday, April 9th, at our regular time of 5:30pm. You will hear about our biblical woman of the month, Eve and her story involving Adam, a beautiful garden, a cunning serpent, an apple and the creator of all, God. So please join us on April 9th, to celebrate Christ's triumphant resurrection and enjoy some food, fun and fellowship. Don't forget to invite a friend or two to come along with you. The more the merrier!

Oh, and don't forget to mark your calendar for our annual Mother/Daughter/Friend Banquet on Tuesday, May 12th. See page 5 for a few more details, with more to come!



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 3rd
Deb Engel
April 5th
Richard Fredrick
April 9th
Gary Feldschneider
April 11th
Chris Dobratz
April 12th
Jim Steinberg
April 14th
Jim Arndt
April 15th
Grace Olson
April 18th
Albert Falstad
Kenneth Runyard
April 19th
Ruth Kern
April 20th
Butch Gartzke
April 22nd
Dale Jaeger
April 23rd
Virginia Meintz
April 26th
Arthur Schuck
April 29th
Pat Menden
April 30th
Lorna Gartzke
Chet Seffrood

For our members 70+ years



MEMORIALS

Jean Fischer	\$1180.00
Marilyn Marohn	\$5000.00

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)

210 E. Pleasant Street

Oconomowoc, WI 53066-3050

262-567-5001

WORSHIP & STUDY

Saturday Worship	5:00 pm
Sunday Worship	8:00 am & 10:30 am
Bible Class	9:15 am

Pastor Lance Armstrong O'Donnell 262.567.5001 x217

Pastor Jason Schockman 262.567.5001 x216

Director of Parish Music, Allison Mackie 262.567.5001 x214

Principal - Jill George 262.567.5001 x213

Website: www.splco.org

LIVE BROADCASTS:

8:00 am Sunday Worship

Live on WTKM 104.9 FM

& www.wtkm.com

Live-streamed at www.splco.org

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (ECC)

Christian Pre-School & Day Care

Director Christine Flores 262.567.4881

Epistle Editor-Heather Scheuer

Newsletter deadline for articles,
announcements and features is the
2nd Wednesday of the month

PLEASE ADVISE THE CHURCH OFFICE OF
ANY ADDRESS CHANGES

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, School & ECC
210 E. Pleasant St.
Oconomowoc, WI 53066-3050

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Sign up ends 4/3/2026

Love golf? We are reaching out to all golfers with the opportunity to create a new Golf League for members and friends of St. Paul's. To date, we have approximately 10 congregants interested.

As a reminder, league rounds start after 5:00 pm beginning Friday, May 8th, and conclude on Friday, August 28th.

Sign-up fee is \$125.00 per person for the season, with weekly League rate at \$16.00 walking, additional \$10.00 per person with a cart, per round.

To start this league, we will need a minimum of 24 players. If we field enough players, we will have an intro league meeting in mid – April.

If interested, or with questions, please contact Kevin Osterndorf at kosterndorf@wi.rr.com.

Sign up ends on 4/3/26.