

Greetings St. Paul Lutheran Church!

Happy Easter! Yes, it's still Easter. 50 days. It's even longer than the Christmas season.

Holy Week was very special at St. Paul. We had more people in attendance on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday than recent years. Thank you to all who attended and made it happen. It takes a whole church to put on all these services and celebrations.

Maundy Thursday featured Holy Communion and the stripping of the Altar. It is always powerful to remember the night in which Jesus was betrayed when he instituted the Lord's Supper and commanded his disciples to love one another.

Good Friday focused on the cross where Jesus died. We read the Gospel story of Jesus' death as we sang songs and extinguished candles. It's a moving worship service to remember Jesus' death for us.



Easter Saturday's kids' celebration was excellent. The highlight for me was seeing Rev. Dr. Ernest and Jane French's family. Dr. French was the pastor of St. Paul in 1960s-1970s. After his death, his wife Jane continued to be an active member at St. Paul until her death in 2023. Their great-grandson Benjamin attended the event along with their granddaughter, grandson-in-law, and daughter. This is just one of the examples of generations of people who have attended St. Paul Easter Saturday Kids' Celebration. Every year I hear more stories of kids and grandkids attending for years.

For me telling the Easter story to the kids on Easter Saturday, almost makes Easter Sunday anti-climactic...but not quite.

Easter Sunday worship was amazing. Even though we couldn't find Easter lilies to order en masse to decorate the sanctuary, everyone brought in lilies, tulips, other plants and flowers, and even a poinsettia from Christmas to make it truly look like an Easter garden. I loved the kids processing in with the flowers from the Easter Saturday event. And the butterfly release after is always a highlight. The outdoor cross was decorated with many flowers and the butterflies were flying all around them.

Remember, Easter continues for 50 days. Keep saying Alleluia! Christ is Risen. Christ is Risen Indeed Alleluia!

God's peace and blessings to all of you.

*-PrAshley*