ST. PAUL'S **EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**



The Word

The Newsletter of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sing ... loud & clear!

Volume 2025, Issue V

May 2025

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

It has come to my attention that I can be loud. Maybe this is no surprise to you. Yes, I was told recently that I can be loud when I preach, even too loud. Why in fact, even my wife chimed in saying, "I think you were a little loud in the last sermon."

Hmmmm....whatever shall I do!?!

Well, one Sunday recently I tried turning off the pulpit mic and just using the lapel mic. But the live streamers were not happy. Then I tried using the pulpit and lapel mic but speaking softly...but I wasn't happy...alas! I've been thinking the best thing to do is to turn off the sound system altogether and just project from the belly, like they did in the good ol' days...ironically, then I saw the title Bob selected for the newsletter:

Sing...Loud and Clear

Loud and Clear? This phrase is drawn from our hymn of the season where we read, "Sing choirs of angels loud and clear, repeat their song of glory here, Christ has triumphed..." In the joy of Easter, how does this hymn tell us to sing? LOUD and CLEAR. Why? Because CHRIST HAS TRIUMPHED! Our joy at the announcement of the resurrection causes us to be full voiced when it comes to the response with our lips and our lives. We like to think that message of Jesus' victory over sin, death and the power of the devil on our behalf.

At our Easter and Confirmation services this year I noticed something quite profound. I'm not the only loud one! Now, I was feeling a little bummed about being called loud, but then I listened to Pastor Frank play the organ, three trumpets blast away and a full sanctuary of Christians singing loudly and clearly saying, "Christ has triumphed, Christ has triumphed, Alleluia, Alleluia!" In fact, this joy family in Christ in a way that doesn't hurt your ears... filled singing was so loud I don't think people heard me give the blessing at communion! The sanctuary was full of music. It was loud and clear. It was obvious, something very important was taking place. The message of Jesus' resurrection was bouncing off the walls and within our hearts...and it was a beautiful, if not, deafening thing.

The "loud and clear" message of Christ's resurrection is the foundation of our faith. You can read more about this on our Hymn of the Season page where Pastor Frank writes about Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 15. The idea of "loud and clear" relates to confession and witness. We read in the Bible that God's people, living out their faith, are called to witness boldly that Jesus Christ is Lord and confess His name before the world. Paul says as much in Romans 10:9-10 saying:

"...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.'

The image at the right is the sketch that became the formal image for the hymn, "Holy God We Praise Thy Name" in Hymns of the Season vol. 5 I love the sketches. Notice the mouths of the children. Pastor Frank and I discussed how the mouths should be open wide because this is what the Gos-



pel does to us. It calls forth a loud and clear and joyous the work of our churches and Sunday Schools, and Day Schools and Parish Based Music Conservatories are helping children and adults open their mouths wide to sing and speak loudly and clearly the Gospel message of Jesus Christ crucified and risen for the life of the world!

Now, I must admit. There is a difference between being full voiced and being a loud mouth!!!! I will listen to my wife's recommendations and try to preach to my beloved

...But I will admit, I don't know if that will be possible...

FOR CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED, ALLELUIA!

Pastor Sherrill

Preserving the Church's Song Organ Project Update

On Saturday evening, April 19, 2025, St. Paul's began using the refurbished organ for regular worship services. A dedication blessing and prayer was held before each Divine service on Sunday morning, April 20, 2025. Pastor Frank began the service with a prelude on the piano, then opened the voice of the organ, with an introduction into "Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia! " (LSB) 457. What a wonderful Easter Vigil & Easter Morning hearing the organ play. As noted in the April newsletter, this is only 85 percent of the organ's full utilization. The original organ parts that were kept and refurbished, along with several new ranks were used.

Bedient Organ is continuing to work on the remaining pipes that will be installed the Great Room along with the new façade with working pipes for the two large openings in the Chancel and Transept areas. On page 3 there is a diagram showing the Great Room along with the pipes, windchest, and reservoir that still need to be installed.

There is still a static reserve air reservoir that will be above the blower that will give plenty of air for the entire system when Pastor Frank hits all the notes at the same time.

Staff, from Bedient, provided a brief update on the work being done in the shop. Reading between the lines, it looks like the Bedient team might be back here at St. Paul's in late May or June to install additional pieces in the Great Room

Pastor Frank, along with the organ students, are finding a few "quirks and ciphers" as they have been practicing and playing on the organ. Bedient has been coming up to work and resolve the issues. The recording feature on the organ console is a wonderful new learning tool as Pastor Frank spoke of a few months ago. This allows Pastor and the student to record the songs they practice and play back to hear how they played the song. It also allows Bedient to see when a "cipher" occurs while the organist is playing.

This is a good time to remind everyone of three important dates coming up in May where the organ will be used outside of the Worship Service. First on Monday, May 12, 2025, at 7:00pm the Bethany Lutheran College Mankato's Concert Choir will be here at St. Paul's to perform for their 2025 Choir Tour. Bethany, for those that do not know, is where Pastor Frank received his bachelor's degree in church music in 2007 before going to Seminary in Ft. Wayne.

On Wednesday, May 14th & 28th, at 6:30pm, students from Pastor Frank's, Ms. Hedlund's, and Mr. Schulz's Music Con-

Important Upcoming Dates

May	,
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May 4, 2025 Sunday

12:15pm Special Voter's Meeting

May 12, 2025 Monday

7:00pm Bethany Lutheran

College Concert Choir @

St. Paul's

May 14 & 28, 2025

6:30pm

Wednesday

Music Conservatory

Organ Recital

May 29, 2025 Thursday

7:00pm Circuit Ascension

Divine Worship Service

June

June 2 - June 6 8:30am - 3:00pm Camp Creation II - God of Creation

(grades 3 - 8)

June 8 - June 11

IDW Convention @ Camp Okoboji

June 9 - June 12 9:00am - 12:00pm Camp Creation I -

Creation @SPLECC

(3 yrs old to 2nd grade)

June 9 - August 22

SPLECC Summer Care

June 15, 2025

Sunday

8:00am

Divine Worship Service

Inside

9:15am-10:30am

Combined Bible Class

Guest Speaker— Becky Bartelt

10:45am

Outdoor Mission

Service

12:30pm

Potluck Luncheon Main Dish provided

June 29, 2025

Sunday

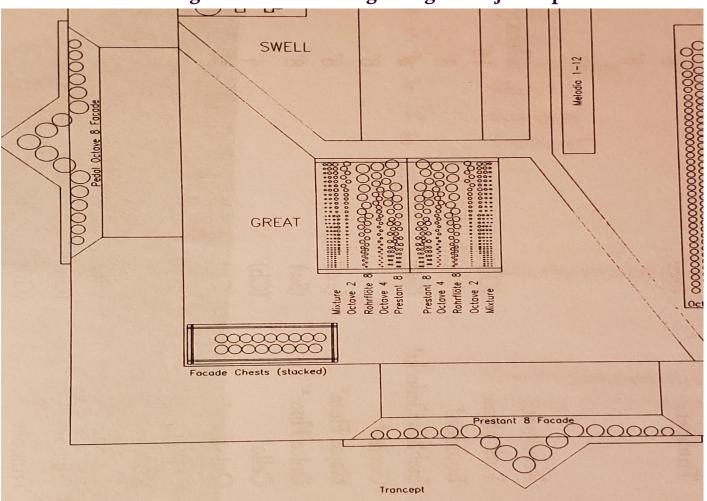
9:15am-10:30am

Combined Bible Class

Guest Speaker Rev. Ted Krey

servatory Studios will show case their skills they have learned this past year. This is going to be a wonderful evening to come and listen to the students as they perform on the organ, piano & violin. On the following page we have pictures of the work being done in the Bedient Shop.

Preserving the Church's Song—Organ Project Update



Above: Not to scale drawing of the Great Room Organ Chamber, showing roughly the remaining pipes that need to be finished and installed. You can also see the two different Façades with the different working pipe names that will be installed in the Chancel Façade, and Transept Façade.



Right: The English Diapason basses pipes that have been made, racked, washed, and buffed. These pipes will be installed in the façade in the Chancel opening.

Preserving the Church's Song—Organ Project Update



Left: Ryan (left) and Travis (right) racking (test fitting) the façade pipes. The pipes have not been washed, or buffed yet. (Travis is about six foot two inches tall), so you can see how much bigger the pipes and wooden façade will be, along with how much further the façade will stick out into the Chancel and Transept areas. Not pictured is the additional layer of the wooden façade below the working pipes.

Right: Travis is cutting out a languid for one of the Prestant façade pipes that will be placed in the Transept façade.

St. Paul's Lutheran Early Childhood Center — May News

April has been a wonderful month at out early childhood center. Students enjoy sharing muffins with mom, and singing out about the resurrection of Jesus! They have also been enjoying more time outside with the warmer temperatures.

Thank you to everyone who attended our dinner with the Pancake Man! We had well over 100 in attendance and including many of our SPLECC families. What an enjoyable time of fellowship!

Update on our enrollment: January total enrollment was 37 (3 infant, 8 toddler, 7 two's, 8 three's, 11 four's) April total enrollment is 44 (5 infant, 6 toddler, 9 two's, 11 three's, 13 four's)

Our next event is Graduation on May 14th. This year we will have 8 graduates!

- Soli Deo Gloria, Becca Heinicke





















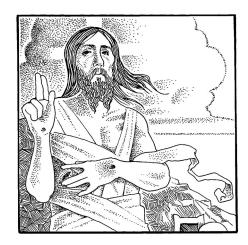
Hymn of the Season Theme Hymn "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resound" (LSB 465)

- I Now all the vault of heav'n resounds
 In praise of love that still abounds:
 "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
 Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!
 Repeat their song of glory here:
 - "Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!"

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- 2 Eternal is the gift He brings, Therefore our heart with rapture sings: "Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Now still He comes to give us life And by His presence stills all strife. Christ has triumphed! He is living! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love; Set heart and will on things above That we conquer through Your triumph; Grant grace sufficient for life's day That by our lives we truly say: "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

4 Adoring praises now we bring
And with the heav'nly blessèd sing:
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"
Be to the Father and our Lord,
To Spirit blest, most holy God,
All the glory, never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
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Have you ever thought about what life would be like if Jesus had not risen from the dead? If Jesus hadn't risen, what would it mean about our faith? What would it mean about our death? What would it mean about our daily living?

St. Paul answers these questions in I Corinthians 15. In the opening verses, he recalls the many witnesses who saw Jesus after He rose. They saw the things that you see in our artist's image. Do you see the scars in Jesus' hands, reminding us that He truly died? Do you see the empty grave that could not hold Him? Do you see the graveclothes which could bind Him no longer? Why do you suppose it is important to know that Jesus truly died and that He truly was raised from the dead?

In verses 17-18, Paul says, "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished." If Jesus is not risen, we would have no forgiveness of sins. We would have no hope when a loved one dies and no certainty of life in heaven. Our lives now would be hopeless and sad. However, because Christ is risen, our faith has a solid foundation. Because Christ is risen, we, too, will rise! Because Christ is risen, we have a source of daily joy!

P aul concludes the chapter, "Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain" (verse 58). Because Christ is risen, we can be about the work God gives us to do in our daily callings. Our daily living reflects the hope that we have just as we pray for in stanza 3 of our hymn.

we have, just as we pray for in stanza 3 of our hymn.
Did you know that the word Alleluia means "Praise the Lord"? How many times is the word Alleluia used in this hymn? Discuss with your parent or teacher the ways in which our hymn proclaims both the reality of Jesus' resurrection and its significance in our daily callings.

Page 7 The Word

St. Paul's Lutheran Music Conservatory —May News



Students Receive Gold Cups

Each year, students who participate in the National Music Federation Festival accumulate points leading to the award of trophies upon the completion of specified milestones. Students receive a maximum of 5 points each year and can receive their first trophy upon accumulating 15 points, their second trophy upon accumulating 30 points, and their third trophy upon accumulating 45 points. This year, nine students received their first cup, and one student received her second cup. If you see any of these students, make sure to congratulate them! Congratulations, students!

















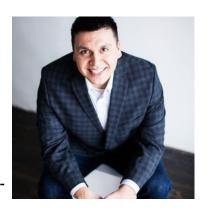
Join us in the Sanctuary for these special performances!

Wednesday, May 14 6:30 p.m. Studio Recital (Frank & Hedlund) Wednesday, May 28 6:30 p.m. Studio Recital (Schulz)

Mark your calendars, it's time for Camp Creation!

Camp Creation II, God of Beauty: June 2nd –6th, 8:30am-3:00pm, 3rd-8th grade

For Camp Creation II, Pastor Frank and Pastor Sherrill will be joined by Ft. Calhoun Art Teacher, Paul Highhorse, to lead campers into a study of the Beauty of God's creation. Mr. Highhorse will lead students in daily art projects, Pastor Frank will leads studies in the area of music and Pastor Sherrill will lead devotional sections studying what the Bible has to say about order, symmetry and balance, foundations of visually pleasing and harmonious compositions. Is Beauty in the eye of the beholder? Or, is there something objective about beauty no matter what your opinion?



Also, plans are currently being made to take a day trip to explore art further throughout our community. Stay tuned to learn more about what plans are shaping up. If you are interested in volunteering for this Camp, we could use "art hands" and drivers for our excursion. Contact Pastor Sherrill.

You can now go online to register for Camp Creation II.

The link for Camp Creation II is: https://forms.office.com/r/h1is1K9VKF
or
scan the QR code:

Registration forms for Camp Creation II are also available in the Church Office.



Camp Creation I: June 9th-12th, 9:00am-Noon, 3yrs-2nd grade

For Camp Creation I, we will again be at our Early Childhood Center for a 4 day camp. Campers will follow a site rotation including science, music, lesson and recreation. Volunteer opportunities are available for Science Teacher, Recreation and Music leaders as well as class helpers. Contact Becca Heinicke or Pastor Tews for more information.

You can now go online to register for Camp Creation I.

The link for Camp Creation I is: https://forms.office.com/r/nUigPHPr8D?origin=lprLink
or
scan the QR code:

Registration forms for Camp Creation I are also available in the Church Office.

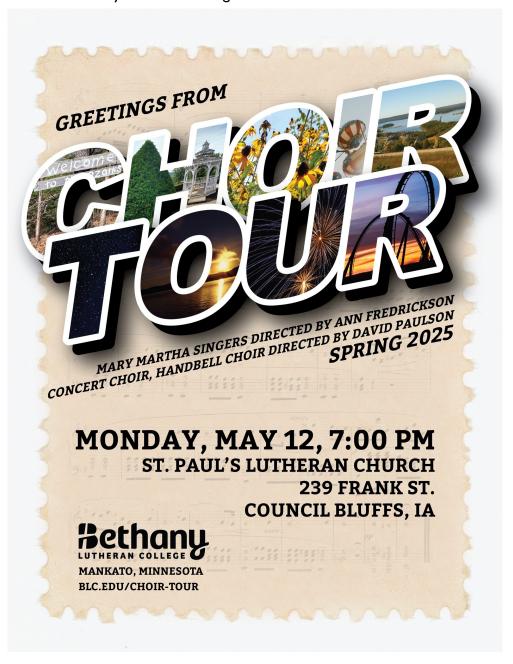


Mark your calendars!

Come One, Come All!

The Bethany Lutheran College (Mankato, MN) Concert Choir, Mary Martha Choir, and Handbell Choir will be presenting a concert at **St. Paul's on Monday, May 12 at 7 p.m**. Over 60 students among the three groups will present a program of varied repertoire. We are honored to have these choirs visit us and encourage you to invite your friends and neighbors. We especially encourage our choir and conservatory students to consider attending. A free will offering will be collected.

More information about Bethany Lutheran College is available at www.blc.edu.



Page 10 The Word

The Word - Additional News & Notes 2025 St. Paul's Pictorial Directory Update

As of May, we have collected 120 of 252 household pictures for the new 2025 pictorial directory. There is still time to email your family and individual pictures to the Church Office email address at: splccb.org. Pastors are working with our Shut-in members to have their picture taken when they visit.

A draft copy of the new Pictorial Directory is available to view in the Church Lounge on the round table. If you have a change to the information for your family, please contact the Church Office at 712-322-4729.

Currently, we are in the process of finalizing the look of the directory, front cover, back cover, and member information updates. We are also discussing make-up dates for June. More information on make-up dates will be published.

Below are a couple sample pages from the new pictorial directory.







Bethany News and Notes for May

On June 1, 2025, Bethany Lutheran Health Services will celebrate their 50th anniversary. Bethany is asking each congregation to donate \$5,000.00 for their anniversary. The \$5,000.00 will go towards the purchase of a new bus for Bethany Heights. At the January 2025 St. Paul's Voter's Meeting, voters decided to have a free will offering on May 11, May 18, and May 25, 2025 with a goal to raise \$2,500.00. An anonymous member indicated at the meeting if the congregation raises the **FULL** \$2,500.00, they would match that \$2,500.00 pledge. Free Will offering baskets will be placed at both entrances to the Church Sanctuary beginning May 11th. If you would like to donate early, please place that donation in an envelope and write on the envelope Bethany Anniversary Donation. If you have any questions, you may contact the Church Office at 712-322-4729.

Page II The Word

The Word - Additional News & Notes 2025 St. Paul's Pictorial Directory Update

Now for a bit of history. I went into the Heritage Room archives and located the Church Pictorial directories St. Paul's has done from 1969 to 2014. I also found a member directory from 1924. I thought I would share a few pictures of existing members from the directories over the past 56 years. You will have to guess the family names. This month we have pictures from 2000 pictorial directory. In June's newsletter we will post more photos. (Yes, I did not exclude myself from the photos).

2000



Page 12 The Word

The Word - St. Paul's Mission - David's Harp + Missionary



Music and Missions in Taiwan

St. Paul's preschoolers and Christ Academy students aren't the only ones playing colored hand bells these days! St. Paul's sponsored missionary in Taiwan, Becky Bartelt, is shown here at a hand bell workshop conducted at the end of March. Two such workshops were led. She also was instrumental in leading a "Spring Outreach Concert" in anticipation of Holy Week.

On April 12th the community was invited to a "Spring Recital" to perform mu-

sic or to listen. So many instruments and instrumentalists we present! Everything from erhus to cellos to French horns to voices to pianos to recorders to a pipa. (Erhus and pipas are Chinese string instruments.) The youngest performer was 7 years old. The oldest were new musicians participating in a program for people over 50 to learn a new instrument for free.

Becky introduced the concert with these words, "Today we will hear Western classical music, Chinese folk music, Western modern music, and Christian sacred music. Just a little explanation in case you're wondering why some of the Christian sacred music for Spring sounds sad. We are right now in the season of Lent when Christians remember their sins, repent of them and give thanks for forgiveness in Jesus. Some pieces will reflect this time. Other pieces will reflect the joy of Easter, which comes at the end of Lent—rejoicing in Jesus' resurrection from the dead for our salvation."

Many people in this ministry area are drawn to learning more about music. We thank God for Becky and her work in Taiwan as she intentionally brings Christ to the world through music!

Note: Becky will be back at St. Paul's for a special presentation this June 15th. On that day, our 10:45am service will be held outside using our outdoor pulpit! Who knows, maybe we'll also use colored hand bells!

Missions in Latin American and the Caribbean

St. Paul's is doubly blessed in the month of June! Not only will we host Becky on Sunday June 15th, but this just in, Missionary Ted Krey and his family will be visiting us on Sunday, June 29th! Coming to the states in order to attend the LWML national convention, (of which, Pastor Frank is organist), Pastor Krey will preach and present on missions in the Latin America/Caribbean Region of LCMS international missions. Please join us this day to meet the Krey's and learn more about missions around the world!







Page 13 The Word

St. Paul's Confirmation Class of 2025















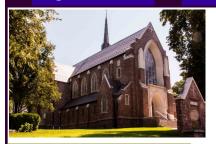






On Sunday April 27, 2025, 10 confirmands were confirmed during the Rite of Confirmation at the 10:45am Divine Worship Service. Pictured above are the students presenting their confirmation papers on Wednesday evening, April 23, and Sunday morning, April 27 between worship services. Congratulations again to the Confirmation Class of 2025. Note: The confirmands confirmation papers will be available soon view in The Heritage Room.

Page 14 The Word



ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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splccboffice@splccb.org

We're on the web stpaulscouncilbluffs.org



St. Paul's Congregation by the numbers

YouTube Subscribers	178
Facebook Followers	954
Instagram Followers	12
Congregation	556
Members	330
Households	252



St. Paul's Lutheran Early Childhood Center by the numbers

Students

44

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Statistics April 2025 St. Paul's Dashboard

272
259
165
696
1,074
160
715
104
2,053
2,749

^{*} This is a snapshot of the income and expense report to date.

May 2025

Contact the Church Office if you need assistance. Ph. 712-322-4729 or email splccboffice@splccb.org	Contact the Church Office if you need assistance. Ph. 712-322-4729 or email splccboffice@splccb.c					vice o
errill will be attending the	Pastor Frank & Pastor Sherrill will be attending the IDW Convention, June 8-II @ Camp Okoboji.	9am Chapel @ SPLECC 7pm Ascension Divine Service	6:30pm Music Conservatory Recital @ St. Paul's			9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Divine Ser-
31	30	The Ascension 29 Of Our Lord	28 9am Chapel @ SPLECC	27	Memorial Day 26	Rogate 25 8am Divine Service
24	Newsletter Articles Due	9am Chapel @ SPLECC 9:15am Parish & ECC Admin Meeting	9am Chapel @ SPLECC	20	19	Cantate 18 8am Divine Service 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Divine Service
9am Men's Bible Study	16	9am Chapel @ SPLECC 9:15am Parish & ECC Admin Meeting 11:30am Women's Bible Study 3pm Dr. C's Sing Along	9am Chapel @ SPLECC 11am SPLECC Graduation Program 6:30pm Music Conservatory Recital @ St. Paul's	13	7pm Bethany Lu- theran College Choirs @ St. Paul's	Jubilate 11 8am Divine Service 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Divine Service
10	9	8 9am Chapel @ SPLECC 6:30pm Council Meeting 9:15am Parish & ECC Admin Meeting	9am Chapel @ SPLECC	6 6am Men's Bible Study 7pm Elder's Meeting	7:45am Classical Conversations HSG	Misericordias 4 Domini 8am Divine Service 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Divine Service
3 9am Men's Bible Study 9am Women's Bible Study	2	1 9am Chapel @ SPLECC				
Saturday	Friday	Thursday	Wednesday	Tuesday	Monday	Sunday

Page 16 The Word

Resurrection Cookies

In this age of busy, busy, busy, this recipe is a great way to join fun family time AND hear again the account of Jesus' death and resurrection. The cookies are to be made the evening before Easter, with each step accompanied by Bible Verses to be read and discussed. The cookies are then placed in the oven which is then sealed, over night. On Easter morning, open the oven, remove the cookies and see what is (or isn't) inside them





Ingredients for the Cookies

- 1 cup whole pecans
- 1 teaspoon vinegar
- 3 egg whites
- 1 pinch salt 1 cup sugar

Supplies

- 1 zip top plastic bag
- 1 wooden spoon
- scotch tape Bible

Instructions

- 1. Preheat oven to 300F (don't skip this step).
- 2. Place pecans in zip top bag and let kids beat them with the wooden spoon to break into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested, He was beaten by the Roman soldiers. **Read: John 19:1-3**
- 3. Let each child smell the vinegar, then put 1 teaspoon vinegar into a mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross He was given vinegar to drink. **Read: John 19:28-30**
- 4. Add egg whites to vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave His life to give us life. Read: John 10:10-11
- 5. Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand. Let them taste it, then put the rest into the mixing bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers and the bitterness of our own sin. Read: Luke 23:27
- 6. Add 1 cup sugar. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us. He wants us to know and belong to Him. **Read: Psalm 34:8 and John 3:16**
- 7. Beat on high speed for 12 to 15 minutes until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the color white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. **Read: Isaiah 1:18 and John 3:1-3**
- 8. Fold in broken nuts. Drop by teaspoon onto a cookie sheet covered with waxed paper. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid. **Read: Matthew 27:57-60**
- 9. Put the cookie sheet in the oven, close the door, and turn the oven OFF. Give each child a piece of tape and seal the oven door. Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed. Read: Matthew 27:65-66
- 10. GO TO BED! Explain that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed. **Read: John 16:20&22**
- 11. On Resurrection Sunday (Easter) morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! On the first Easter Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. **Read: Matthew 28:1-9**

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER PRESENTS:



长-47州

(Crade just completed)

SUMMER CARE

(In addition to our regular Infant thru Pre-k Childcare)

- M CHRIST CENTERED
- **▼** DEDICATED STAFF
- REGULAR LITERACY INTERACTIONS
- VARIETY OF STEM ACTIVITIES TO KEEP STUDENTS MINDS ENGAGED
- PLENTY OF SPACE TO BE ACTIVE AND USE GROSS MOTOR SKILLS
- **▼** SPACE IS LIMITED!

FROM JUNE 2ND -AUGUST 2014, 2025

5:30 A.M. TO 5:30 P.M.

For more information, contact us:
Becca Heinicke, Director
712-322-3294

becca.heinicke@splecc.org 1500 N 16th St, Council Bluffs, IA 51501



