Bringing Jesus' Love to All People to Make Heaven More Crowded

St. Paul's Scope

A Faithful and Welcoming Church **April 2026**

Resurrection Skin: Why the Pulpit Can't Stay Silent About the Body

Think about the Easter story for a second. We usually focus on the empty tomb and the stone being rolled away, which is incredible, but we sometimes skip over the most "human" part: Jesus didn't come back as a ghost or a floating cloud. He came back in a real body. He had scars you could touch and a stomach that got hungry for breakfast on the beach.

If Easter proves that God cares enough about the human body to bring it back to life, then why are we so scared to talk about what we do with our bodies in church?

Usually, when the topic of sexuality comes up, the room gets quiet. People start checking their watches or looking at the floor like they've accidentally walked into the wrong movie. But when pastors stay silent, we leave our people to figure it all out from billboards, Netflix, and TikTok. And let's be honest, those aren't exactly the best places to learn about the sacredness of a human soul.

The Resurrection is the ultimate "new beginning." It's God saying that nothing is too broken to be fixed—and that includes our relationships, our past mistakes, and the shame we carry in secret. When a pastor talks about sexuality, they aren't trying to be "edgy." They're doing "temple maintenance." They're helping people realize that their physical desires and their spiritual lives aren't two separate worlds; they are wrapped together in the same skin.

Sometimes we get so caught up in the "theology" of the body that we forget how literal it can be.

A Sunday School teacher was asking her class what they knew about the first Easter. One little boy raised his hand and said, "I know! Jesus came out of the grave, and if He sees His shadow, we have six more weeks of winter!"

We might laugh, but sometimes our understanding of how our faith connects to our real, physical lives is just as mixed up as that kid's!

The Easter Admonition

The Apostle Paul actually used the Resurrection as the main reason why we should care about our physical choices. He didn't just say "don't do this" or "don't do that" because he wanted to be a killjoy. He said it because our bodies are part of a much bigger story.

"By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also... Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? ... So honor God with your body." *— 1 Corinthians 6:14-15, 20*

That's the Easter message for our physical selves: Your body isn't an ornament or a rental car you can trash. It's a temple. It's the place where the Holy Spirit lives.

When a pastor speaks up about the body, they're really just inviting the light of the empty tomb into the parts of our lives we usually keep behind a closed door. They're saying that the "New Life" Jesus promised starts right now—in our hearts, our minds, and even in our skin.

Attendance for Last Month

Date	8:00am	10:15am	Weekly Christian Education	Online Viewers
03/01	A 65 / C 2	A 90 / C 8	A 69 / C 47	410
03/08	A 63 / C 0	A 67 / C 7	A 83 / C 37	413
03/15	A 76 / C 0	A 59 / C 4	A 78 / C 43	646
03/22	A 74 / C 2	A 82 / C 13	A 60 / C 46	390
03/29	A 76 / C 0	A 92 / C 5	A 61 / C 37	286

Sunday Volunteer Schedule

Time	Date	Council Ushers	Greeters	Lector	Acolyte
8:00	**04/05**	Kim Borja	Sandy Dickens	Craig Brazelton	Dean Shaw
		Kathy Lickenbrock	Mary Endsley		
	04/12	Adam Tritt	Scott Weber	Lynn Gipson	Dahlia Payne
		April Beisiegel	Julie Weber		
	04/19	Kim Borja	Larry Rhutasel	Jeanie Stumpf	Tara Beisiegel
		Lisa McDonald	Marg Rhutasel		
	04/26	Craig Brazelton	Dale Lickenbrock	Scott Weber	Camden Junge
		Kim Borja	Kathy Lickenbrock		
10:15	**04/05**	David Mitchell	Sharon Klann	Teresa Huston	Dahlia Payne
		Lauren Borger	Brittany Kaiser		
	04/12	Tom Heiken	Lee Hartmann	Donna Asbridge	Tyson Kociemba
		Julie Rickert	Betty Weber		
	04/19	Chad Lindauer	Tom Heiken	Vicki Channer	Audrey Lawson
		David Mitchell	Robin Heiken		
	04/26	Lauren Borger	Harry Kuhn	Amy Walton	Emily Kuhn
		Tom Heiken	Shirley Kuhn		

If you are scheduled to serve, please remember that we are counting on you!
If you cannot attend, switch with another volunteer and let the office know. Thank you!

Audio/Video Volunteer Schedule

Time	Date	Sound	Projection	Camera
8:00	**04/05**	Sandi	Sandi	Scott
	04/12	Sandi	Sandi	Gregg
	04/19	Sandi	Sandi	Scott
	04/26	Sandi	Sandi	Gregg
10:15	**04/05**	Sandi	Lori	Jim
	04/12	Sandi	Sandi	Jerry
	04/19	Sandi	Elizabeth	Jim
	04/26	Sandi	Lori	Jerry

Communion Set-up/Clean-up

Date	Set-Up	After 8:00 am	After 10:15 am
04/03 Maundy Thursday	Lisa McDonald & Jill Kettler		Debbie Ross
04/05 Easter	Thomas & Shirley Saia	Lisa McDonald & Jill Kettler	Gloria Niebruegge
05/03	Debbie Ross	Thomas & Shirley Saia	Lauren Borger

Blood Pressure Checks (Between Services in the Parlor)

April 12	Phyllis Ellerbusch
May 10	Donna Asbridge

The Benevolence offerings that you mark on your envelopes each month are Second Mile offerings for special mission projects.

Our March offering for Feed the Kids was $70 in addition to the numerous items donated in the narthex.

April benevolence offerings will be for Freeburg Care Center Activities Fund. Thank you!

Jim Feurer
Carol Brauer

Thank you for your support of First Priority. Students are growing in faith, making decisions for Christ, learning to lead, and serving others through projects like Feed the Hungry.

Rebekah McGarrity, First Priority

...MINISTRIES ...

FREEBURG FOOD PANTRY

Food Pantry needs for the month of **April** are:

Kleenex — Bath Tissues
Pasta Sauce — Jelly or Jam
Crackers of Any Kind

Food Collection Sunday is **April 12th**. The Pantry appreciates your donations and support!

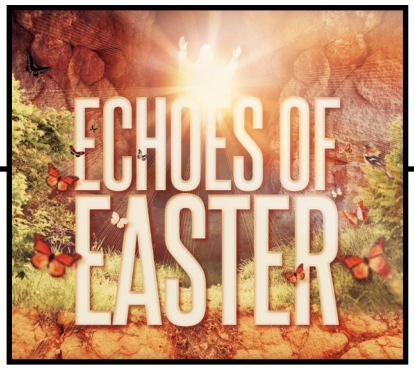
...MINISTRIES ...

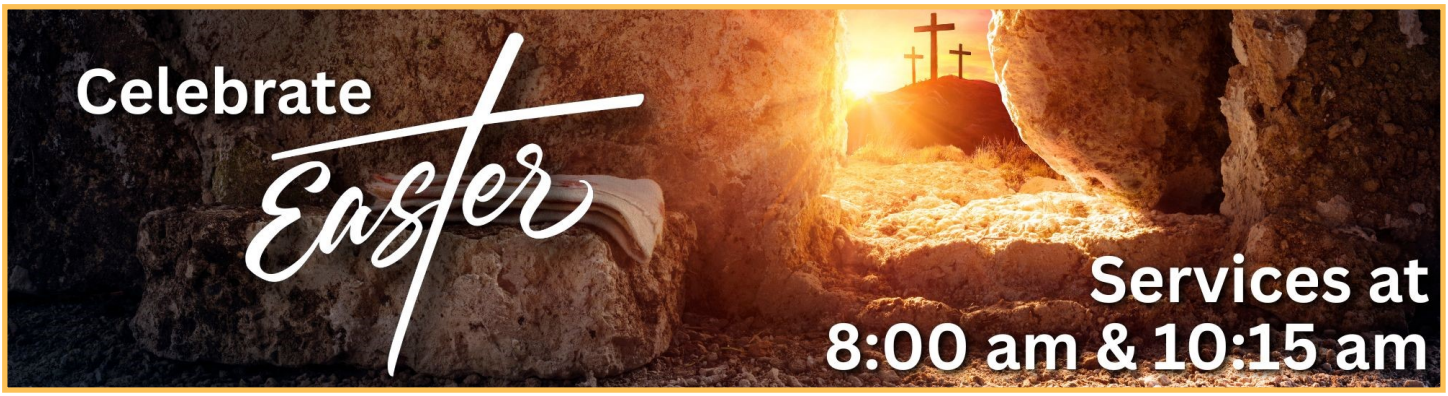
On **Easter Sunday, April 5**, the St. Paul's Choir will present a moving and unforgettable mini-cantata titled ***Echoes of Easter*** during both the 8:00 AM and 10:15 AM services. This powerful musical worship experience features a full digital orchestra that brings the story of Easter to life in a fresh and stirring way.

Have you ever paused to imagine the echoes of that first Easter—the sounds of the garden, the cries from Calvary, the stillness of the tomb, and the triumphant footsteps of Jesus as He rose to life again?

Echoes of Easter invites you into that journey, carrying you from Gethsemane to the cross to the empty tomb, ending with an uplifting celebration of Christ's victory over death.

We warmly encourage you to **invite your family, friends, and neighbors** to join us on Easter morning. Let's fill the sanctuary with hearts ready to celebrate the hope, joy, and promise of the Resurrection.





04/02	Derek Morris
04/02	Herb Schafale
04/03	Nick Borja
04/04	Cindy Blumberg
04/04	Mark Mullen
04/07	Walt Borja
04/07	Doug Parrish
04/07	Jacob Shook
04/08	Lauri Harsy
04/10	Greg Dickens
04/11	Stella Bricker
04/12	Brynne Sanders
04/14	Roger Muskopf
04/15	Barb Borger
04/15	Jase Brueggemann
04/15	Liam Heppermann
04/15	Stan Koerber
04/15	Asher Stein
04/16	Michelle Feurer
04/16	Andrew Vogel
04/17	Marg Rhutasel
04/19	Chad Lindauer
04/20	Robin Heiken
04/21	Bill Groh
04/22	Don Barkau
04/24	Braden Burton
04/24	Tyler Coughlin
04/24	Richard Kehrer, Sr.
04/26	Quinn Brueggemann
04/28	Haley Mueth

04/14	Doug & Jodie Parrish
04/20	Ramon & Dana Matchett
04/23	Pat & Donna Smoker
04/24	Lee & Jeanne Hartmann

Normal Sunday Schedule:

8:00 am & 10:15 am Worship
9:05 am Sunday School
Children's Church 10:15 am
First Sunday of the Month – Communion Observed During Both Worship Services

APRIL			APRIL		
2	9:00 AM	Painting	14	Noon	Women's Guild Luncheon
2	1:00 PM	Service at Cedar Trails	14	2:00 PM	Pantry
2	7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Service	14	**7:00 PM**	**ADULT BIBLE STUDY (VIA ZOOM) RESUMES ON TUESDAYS**
3	7:00 PM	Good Friday Service	15	**7:00 PM**	**CHOIR PRACTICE RESUMES**
4	10:00 AM	Bonus Choir Rehearsal	16	9:00 AM	Painting
5		**EASTER**	16	**10:00 AM**	**MORNING RECON RESUMES**
5		**COMMUNION OBSERVED**	16	5:00 PM	Pantry
6		Office Closed in Observance of Easter Monday	16	**7:00 PM**	**EVENING RECON RESUMES**
6	6:15 PM	Christian Education Meeting	19	9:15 AM	New Members' Reception
7	2:00 PM	Pantry	21	7:00 PM	Church Council
7	7:00 PM	Building & Grounds Meeting	24	9:00 AM	Food & Clothing Bank Sale
12	9:15 AM	Blood Pressure Checks	**25**		**SCOPE DEADLINE**
12		**FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY**	26	10:15 AM	Baptism

Normal Weekly Schedule:

7th & 8th Grade Confirmation: Sunday at 9:15 am
C.S. Lewis Bible Study: Monday at 7:15 pm
Bible Study: Sunday 9:05 am, Tuesday at 7:00 pm (Zoom)
Quilting: Tuesday & Thursday at 8:00 am (Ministry Building)
Boy Scouts: Tuesday at 7:00 pm (Basement)
Choir Rehearsal: Wednesday at 6:00 pm
The Outlet: Wednesday at 6:30 pm (Youth Room)
Faith Journey Rehearsal: Wednesday at 7:00 pm
Morning "Recon" Bible Study with Pastor Lovins: Thursday at 10:00 am (Baltz Parlor)
"Recon" Bible Study with Pastor Lovins: Thursday at 7:00 pm (Ministry Building)

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH
210 W. White Street
Freeburg, IL 62243

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Bringing Jesus' Love to All People to Make Heaven More Crowded

St. Paul's Church
7 North Belleville Street
Freeburg, IL 62243

Mailing Address:
210 W White Street
Freeburg, IL 62243

Worship Services:
Sunday 8:00 & 10:15 AM
Sunday School 9:05 AM
Children's Church 10:15 AM

Office Phone: 618-539-3262
Church Phone: 618-539-3962
Email address: churchoffice@stpaulsfreeburg.org
Web address: www.stpaulsfreeburg.org

Rev. Andrew Lovins, Pastor

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