



The Monthly Epistle

of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Volume 69, Issue 2 • February 2023

Lent is Almost Here

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake and Sausage dinner will be Tuesday, February 21st at 6:00PM. Come to the fellowship hall for good food and some fun fellowship.

Our Ash Wednesday service will be Wednesday, February 22nd at 7:00PM in the sanctuary. There will be no meal that Wednesday, as it is a traditional day of fasting.

Lenten Suppers are on Wednesdays beginning March 1st and go through April 5th. The suppers are at 6:00pm in the fellowship hall. Lenten services are at 7:00PM in the sanctuary. Pastor Ryman will lead all services at St. Paul's this year.

Maundy Thursday service is at 7:00PM, April 6th. Good Friday is the next day at 7:00PM. Both services are in the sanctuary.

Beyond that, consider fasting as a spiritual discipline this Lent. Historically and traditionally Ash Wednesday and Good Friday have been days of fasting for all Christians. Because of the latter, many have practiced fasting on each Friday in Lent. Give it some thought and prayer. Re: Acts 13:2-3; 14:23; 27:9; 1 Corinthians 9:27.

A Special Request from Your Pastor

If you have something to tell me — especially if it is about a surgery or a serious family matter — please do not tell me before or right after Sunday service. I can almost guarantee that I will forget what you told me. Sundays mornings are very hectic, particularly before worship. I have a lot on my mind: going over the upcoming service, answering questions, and greeting visitors and the rest of you.

Sometimes, I have to fill in for a Sunday School teacher, or have a committee meeting, only to then rush into the service, and that makes things even more crazy. So, what should you do?

Please call the church office or email pastor@stpaulslutheran.church. Please do not text. Then Pam or I can easily get your surgery or prayer request on my calendar so that your need will be remembered.

St. Paul's has two defibrillators onsite in case of medical emergencies.

To ensure your safety, it is important that you
please let the church office know if you cannot be defibrillated.

Biscuits and beverages will be available in the fellowship hall **February 5, at 8:30am.**
Be sure to stop in and enjoy breakfast and fellowship before Sunday School.

Sundays in February

- Men's Choir practice each Sunday, 3pm
- Handbell practice each Sunday, 4pm
- Vespers each Sunday—finger foods at 6pm; Vespers at 6:30pm are also live-streamed on our Facebook page.
- Feb. 5 – Breakfast before Sunday school, 8:30am
- Feb. 5 – Christian Education Committee, 2pm
- Feb. 5 – Kathy Ketchie circle, 5pm
- Feb. 12 – Baptism of Alexandria Jacqueline-Marie Lockwood (Newsome)
- Feb. 12 – All youth, Bible study, 2:30pm
- Feb. 19 – Youth and Family Committee, 2pm

Mondays

- Faith Academy after-school program—Feb. 6th, 13th, 27th, 1-3pm
- Feb. 6 – Hama Lingle Circle, 7pm
- Feb. 13 – Blood drive, 1:30 - 6pm
- Feb. 13 – Outreach Committee, conference room, 6:30pm
- Feb. 13 – Melissa Lura Circle, 6:30pm
- Feb. 20 – Council meeting, 6:30pm
- Feb. 20 – March newsletter articles due this week
- Feb. 27 – Lutheran Men, 6:30pm

Tuesdays

- Adult Confirmation Class, each Tuesday, 10am and 6pm
- Girl Scouts, each Tuesday, 7pm
- Feb. 7 – Grace Ridenhour Circle, 6:30pm
- Feb. 14 – Executive Committee, 7pm
- Feb. 14 – Bonnie Bost Circle, 7pm
- Feb. 21 – Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, 6pm
- Feb. 21 – Friendship Club, 10:30am
- Feb. 21 – Staff meeting, 5pm

Wednesdays

- Classical Conversations home school group meets Wednesdays 8:30am-3:30pm
- Call Committee, each Wednesday, 6pm
- Adult Choir practice each Wednesday, 6:30pm
- Youth Confirmation Class each Wednesday, 7:30pm
(*no youth Confirmation during Lent, Feb. 22-Apr. 5*)
- Feb. 1 – Bumgarner Circle, 10am
- Feb. 22 – Ash Wednesday

Thursdays

- Bible Study, each Thursday in the fellowship hall, 10am and 6pm

Fridays

- Feb. 3 – Girl Scouts cookie distribution, fellowship hall, 3pm-7pm

Saturdays

- Feb. 11 – Firepit at the parsonage for Wyclif's birthday party, 4pm
- Feb. 18 – Valentine's supper & Newlywed game, 6pm

Lutheran Women Meetings

Ellen Bumgarner Circle – Wednesday, February 1, 10am

Kathy Ketchie Circle – Sunday, February 5, 5pm

Hama Lingle Circle – Monday, February 6, 7pm (Alice Davis, hostess & leader)

Grace Ridenhour Circle – Tuesday, February 7, 6:30pm

Melissa Lura Circle – Monday, February 13, 6:30pm

Bonnie Bost Circle – Tuesday, February 14, 7pm

All youth are invited for food, firepit, and fun at
Wyclif's First Birthday Party
Saturday, February 11th, 4:00pm
at the parsonage.
RSVP by email to
pastor@stpaulslutheran.church*

**Of course, adults are invited as well.*

St. Paul's Blood Drive, February 13, 2023

The first blood drive in 2023 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church will be held on Monday, February 13th, in the fellowship hall from **1:30pm–6:00pm**. Our goal for the drive is to collect 35 units. Although the November, 2022, drive did not reach that goal, our average for the four drives was 36 units thanks to the persons who gave “double red blood cells.”

Whole blood is normally given to persons who have a tremendous blood loss and need to replace all factors in the circulatory system. However, whole blood can also be divided into three components and used to treat three different individuals:

- Red blood cells—given to persons with disorders such as anemia
- Platelets—given to those who have disorders such as hemophilia
- White blood cells and plasma—given to persons who are immune suppressed

Whatever the issue, a person who receives any transfusion that may save their life is eternally grateful for the donation. Anyone who donated blood at St. Paul's at our November blood drive will receive an appointment two weeks before the February drive. Anyone who has donated blood over the past year will receive a reminder that the church is sponsoring a blood drive. If you have never donated at our church, please consider helping St. Paul's reach its goal. Please contact Alice Davis at 704-855-4930, or pherford1@yahoo.com if you would like to make an appointment.



Valentine Dinner & Newlywed Game February 18th, 6:00pm

Country-style steak, barbeque chicken, mashed potatoes,
green beans, corn, roll, banana pudding

- \$12/adult • \$6/4 to 12 • 3 and under are free

Tickets on sale in Ladies' Parlor
on February 5th and 12th



DONATE BLOOD

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Monday, Feb. 13th
1:30PM-6:00PM

All donors receive*:

- **\$20 eGift Card**
- **OneBlood Long Sleeve T-shirt**
- **Wellness Checkup** including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count, and cholesterol screening.

Fact: A single car accident victim can require 100 pints of blood.



Appointments are encouraged, please visit oneblood.org/donate-now and use **sponsor code #55685**

ID REQUIRED

*One offer per donor, per donation. No cash value. Not-transferable. Gifts may vary. For more information please visit oneblood.org/details.

Donors
Receive



- PLUS -



- PLUS -



oneblood 
Share your power.

Friendship Club will meet February 21, at 10:30AM, in the fellowship hall. Guest speaker will be David Freeze. He will give a presentation of his bicycle trip in Hawaii. A covered dish meal will follow the presentation. Please join us for an informative program, fellowship, and good food.

Shrove Tuesday and Lenten suppers—The following groups are scheduled to prepare meals as we approach Easter:

February 21 – Lutheran Men	Pancakes, sausage, drinks
March 1 – Hama Lingle Circle	Soup, sandwiches, drinks
March 8 – Ridenhour/Ketchie Circles	Soup, salad, drinks
March 15 – George Barringer's Class	Soup, sandwiches, drinks
March 22 – Friendship Club	Chili, cornbread, drinks
March 29 – Youth	Soup, sandwiches, drinks
April 5 – Bonnie Bost Circle	Soup, sandwiches, drinks

Membership classes will be held February 12, 19, and 26 after worship service in the chapel. If you are interested in joining the St. Paul's family, please be present for each of these 45-minute classes.

First Communion classes will be held the three Sundays preceeding Easter—March 19, 26, and April 2. Classes will be after worship service in Pastor Ryman's office. Any parent who would like their child to have their first Communion on Easter Sunday should bring their child to *all three classes*.

Middle & High School, and Chaperones

The Youth and Family Committee have begun planning activities for 2023. We are considering our mission options, and would like to have an idea of how many middle school and high school youth would be able to participate this summer. Additionally, we would like to know how many adults would be available to chaperone. Having an accurate number early in the planning will help us decide when to go, where to go, and what additional activities we might be able to plan.

Please send the names of those who would be available to Michael Canup at 336-529-5203, mcanup@triad.rr.com, or to Amy Barringer at 980-234-8402, abarringer@bellsouth.net. Thank you!

The **Extension and Community Association** will meet on Tuesday, February 7, in St. Paul's conference room at 1:00pm.

Thanks

We are grateful for all the ways you continue to support Naomi's Heart Mission through your monthly donations, sponsorship of children, feedings, and words of encouragement. In giving, you help in our ministry to reach many children and families to know Jesus.

Again, thank you for having the heart and compassion to walk beside us as we serve a great and mighty God.

Blessings,
Kristie Ward
Founder, Naomi's Heart Mission

Thank you for your gifts of \$224.87, \$247.24 and \$210.66 given to the Lutheran Disaster Assistance Fund during the months of October, November, and December, 2022. The Lutheran Disaster Assistance Fund was established in 2013 to assist churches during times of natural disasters. The goal of the fund is to reach out to those impacted by disaster who otherwise would not have resources.

To date the LDA Fund has been able to provide almost \$488,000 in grant donations to those that have been impacted by floods, mudslides, hurricanes, wildfires, tornadoes and earthquakes. You can find a full description of the LDA Fund on the LCMC website <https://www.lcmc.net/blog/relief-funds-help-congregations-and-pastors-in-need/a934>

Your church is such a faithful, generous supporter of our mission. We are grateful to you for your help. May God bless you for your concern for others.

Pam Koranda
LDA Financial Assistant

Thank you for your continued partnership in the Gospel. As you prepare to celebrate Christ's coming, our hope is that the good news of Christmas would be evident through you. As we reflect back on this year, we are thankful to God for churches like yours that are committed to his word and faithful to His Call. It is a privilege to serve alongside you, and we look forward to more opportunities to do so in the year ahead.

The Radical Team

2023 Yearbook is now in the works. Please check your contact information in the last yearbook. If there are updates needed, please let the church office know right away.

*We extend our love and sympathy to the family of Ruby Oaks Heilig.
Ruby passed away on December 6, 2022.*

*We extend our love and sympathy to Rev. Mark and Julia Wilhelm
on the death of Julia's mother, Ms. Betty Jean Cash Smith.
Ms. Smith died December 26, 2022, in Hickory, NC.*



Memorial Gifts

A gift was received in memory of Polly Webb for the
General Fund from Marvin and Judy Leazer

In Honor of...

A special donation was given to St. Paul's for the General Fund by
Sue and Don Lentz in honor of their daughters and loved ones.

A gift was received in honor of Perry and Lori Bernhardt for the
Helping Hands Fund from Dottie Stancil.

A special donation was given to St. Paul's Helping Hands Fund by
Pastor Stephen and Joanne Lien. The Liens live in Mesa, AZ.

A gift was received in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of
Myra Jane and Terry Eller from Shirlene and Brian Potts.

A gift was given to the St. Paul's Helping Hands fund in honor of
Sarah Fesperman by Susan and Mark Ryman.



The plastic, two-compartment Communion sets we have been using since Covid are about to come to an end. We will not be ordering more. As soon as this case of communion sets is empty (within the next week or so), those who do not come to the altar rail for Holy Communion will be served in the pews again. Pastor Ryman is excited for this further return to “the way things were,” and hopes this note in “The Epistle” gives you a little time for adjustment. Change can be hard—even change back to “the way we’ve always done it.”

Rowan Helping Ministries —You may check the RHM website to see the current needs: <https://rowanhelppministries.org/donate>. There you may view ways to donate to those in need, including how to volunteer your time.

Income and Expenses for December 2022

Income: \$46,333 • Expenses: \$35,526

Income > Expense for December: +\$10,807

Income > Expense, End of year 2022: +\$61,965

Capital Building Fund, December 31, 2022: \$237,429

January income/expenses will be in the March Newsletter.

Online Giving is accessible online at StPaulsLutheran.Church/give.

There is a minimal fee for each transaction, which is less if you use your bank account number instead of your debit or credit card.

I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD,
WHO BROUGHT YOU OUT
OF THE LAND OF EGYPT,
OUT OF THE HOUSE OF SLAVERY.
YOU SHALL HAVE NO
OTHER GODS BEFORE ME.

— EXODUS 20:2-3 —

A Reckoning

Find the 29 **bold** words from Genesis 42:18–22.

C B B E C R T N I S T D T T D
Y G R O N S A C F S I Z R H O
W T M O E I A E E E R D O I O
D E L N T R M G F Z E W U R L
W U O I R H N A T G M A B D B
P H F Y U U E L F N A S L B D
E V D Q O G W R H I I D E W C
Y K D Y I S K O S R N O H V T
J A B R O T H E R B Y G M E N
Y O T R T G L R S D Y K Z R H
D I S T R E S S E O S U Z I C
R V T E V I L Z D W U Z R F P
H A C H P H T U R T S L G I F
O B Q W Y H N I A R G N X E R
W N G Q H T A S P N U Y A D U

And **Joseph** said to them the **third day**, “Do this and **live**, for I **fear God**. If you are **honest men**, let one of your **brothers** be **remain** in your prison house. But you must go; **carry grain** for the **famine** in your households. And **bring** your **youngest brother** to me. Then your **words** will be **verified**, and you shall not **die**.” And they did so. Then they said to one another, “The **truth** is that we are **guilty** concerning our brother, that we **saw** the **distress** of his **soul** when he pleaded with us, yet we would not listen. Therefore, this **trouble** has **come** upon us.” And Reuben answered them, saying, “Did I not say to you, ‘Do not **sin** against the boy?’ But you would not listen? So, behold, an **answer** for his **blood** is required also.”

God Hears Our Groanings

*Find the 22 **bold** words from Exodus 6:2–7.*

E R T V O S X B S C G E S C S
M S S N Y O O X A G N G T A N
I P T V A C N N K E I Y N A E
M S K A A N A U U Z N P E S D
B A R J B A E C O M A T M I R
J C H A N L S V F F O I G W U
U O D A E E I I O K R A D P B
L V Q R R L S S W C G N U V N
B E S Q A B X L H Y O S J L E
E N X A W E A F R E D E E M W
Y A H W E H H E G A D N O B U
I N J B F Z F Z A R L D R O L
L T S R E N R U O J O S M U E
L D E S C E N D A N T S Z R S
D E H C T E R T S T U O V M A

“I am the **LORD**, and I appeared to **Abraham**, to **Isaac**, and to **Jacob**, as God Almighty, but I was not known to them by my name **Yahweh**. I also **established** my **covenant** with them, to give them the land of **Canaan**, the land where they lived as **sojourners**. Moreover, I have **heard** the **groaning** of the **descendants** of **Israel**, whom the Egyptians keep in **bondage**, and I have remembered my **covenant**. Therefore, say to the children of Israel, ‘I am the **LORD**, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will **rescue** you out of their bondage, and I will **redeem** you with an **outstretched arm**, and with great **judgments**. And I will take you to be my people, and I will your God, and you shall know that I am the **LORD** your God, who brought you out from under the **burdens** of the **Egyptians**.’”



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

OUR MISSION

A family of faith sharing the gospel and love of Christ

Phone: 704-633-0922

Email: splchurch@att.net

Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Facebook: www.facebook.com/StPaulsLCMC

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12 Noon

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Mark Ryman, Pastor
pastor@stpaulslutheran.church

Pamela Cottingham, Secretary
splchurch@att.net

John Brock, Music Director
splcmusicalsisbury@gmail.com

Johnsie Taylor, Organist
jtaylor783@aol.com

Judy Lowman, Treasurer
jlowman1@carolina.rr.com

Perry Bernhardt, Council President
perryhbernhardt@gmail.com

Alison Moore, Girl Scout Coordinator, 704-467-9191

St. Paul's newsletter, the "Monthly Epistle," is intended to keep everyone informed about happenings within the congregation that effect and contribute to our ministry together. In order to maximize reach and minimize cost, the preferred methods of distribution are by email, and posting on our St. Paul's website (www.StPaulsLutheran.Church). All members are encouraged to use the newsletter as a resource to help you consider how God is calling you to be involved in the life of his church. If you are unable to access the newsletter online, or would just like to have a printed copy to refer to, the most cost-effective way to receive it is to pick up a copy from the narthex or church office. We mail copies to those members whom we know don't have online access, are shut-in, or live out of town. If you want to be added to our email list, or to the mailing list, please contact the church office.