



The Monthly Epistle

of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Volume 69, Issue 3 • March 2023

They're Invited!

Lent has just begun, so Easter is just around the corner. Lent is a pretty good example that St. Paul's offers you — and your neighbor — a lot. And these activities and programs that promote Christ and his gospel happen year-round. So, we are inviting a large number of households in the area to our main Easter service. These direct mail, oversized postcard invitations will be sent out about a month ahead of time, in hopes people receive them a couple of weeks before Easter.

Studies show that the number of people considering attending church rises over 200% at Easter. It is also up significantly at Christmas, but not nearly so much as Easter. We intend to take advantage of this opportunity. Why?

Our church mission statement declares that we are “a family of faith sharing the gospel and love of Christ.” So, share we must and will. Our worship services, Bible studies, and other programs are worth sharing with our neighbors. Furthermore, we are at a point — attendance-wise — where people coming to St. Paul's for the first time will see that things are happening here, that this might be a place that has something to offer their families.

We need two things from you to help make this happen. First, we need a team of greeters to meet visitors on Easter Sunday. If you would come to a training event for that purpose, please contact the church office. Pastor Ryman will teach you what to say and where to greet folks. Hint: it will not be in the narthex.

Second, please pray that the Holy Spirit moves the individuals and families he wants us to minister to — not only on Easter Sunday but into the future. In fact, I would challenge all members of St. Paul's join me in starting our days, between now and Easter sunrise, by praying for these visitors, then praying the Lord's Prayer.

See you in church!

Pastor Mark

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.

Lenten suppers—The following groups will prepare meals as we approach Easter:

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

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

Sundays in March

- 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.
- Mar. 5 – Breakfast before Sunday school, 8:30am
- Mar. 5 – Christian Education Committee, 2pm
- Mar. 5 – Kathy Ketchie circle, 5pm
- *Mar. 12 – Daylight Savings Time begins*
- Mar. 12 – All youth, Bible study, 2:30pm
- Mar. 19 – Baptism of Rachel Marie Ziegler
- Mar. 19 – First Communion Class, 1st of 3, after worship in Pastor Ryman's office
- Mar. 26 – First Communion Class, 2nd of 3, after worship in Pastor Ryman's office

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

- Adult Confirmation class, 6pm, each week
- Girl Scouts, 7pm, each week
- Mar. 7 – Grace Ridenhour Circle, 6:30pm
- Mar. 14 – Bonnie Bost Circle, 7pm
- Mar. 14 – Executive Committee, 7pm
- Mar. 21 – Friendship Club, 3rd Tuesday each month, 10:30am
- Mar. 21 – Staff meeting, 5pm

Wednesdays

- Home school group meets Wednesdays 8:30am-3:30pm (no classes on March 15th)
- Lenten Suppers at 6pm in the fellowship hall each Wednesday during Lent.
- Lenten Service at 7pm in the sanctuary each Wednesday during Lent.
- Adult Choir practice during Lent will follow Lenten Service each Wednesday evening.
- No Youth Confirmation Classes during Lent.
- Mar. 1 – Bumgarner Circle, 10am

Thursdays

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

Fridays

- Homeschool ballet, 1pm each Friday
- Mar. 3 – Girl Scouts sleepover, 7pm through 9:30am Saturday morning

Saturdays

- Mar. 4 – Stephen Minister luncheon in the fellowship hall, 11am-1pm
- Mar. 4 – Girl Scouts tea with parents, fellowship hall, 3-5pm
- Mar. 11 – *Turn your clocks forward one hour tonight to begin Daylight Savings Time.*
- Mar. 11 – Annual Cemetery Clean-up, 9am

March 11th—Annual Cemetery Clean-up Day

In order to keep our cemetery neat and clean, everything that isn't permanently attached will be thrown away. If you have flowers, or anything other objects, on a gravesite that you wish to keep, please remove them before March 11th. You may return them after the clean-up is finished. Please help spread the word, especially to those who do not attend church at St. Paul's.

Daylight Savings Time Begins

Remember to set your clocks *forward* one hour before going to sleep Saturday, March 11, so you aren't late for church Sunday. Daylight savings time begins at 2am, Sunday, March 12.

Lutheran Women Circle Meetings

Ellen Bumgarner – Wednesday, March 1, 10am

Kathy Ketchie – Sunday, March 5, 5pm

Hama Lingle – Monday, March 6, 7pm (Jane Webb, hostess at her home)

Melissa Lura – Monday, March 13, 6:30pm

Grace Ridenhour – Tuesday, March 14, 6:30pm (note date change this month)

Bonnie Bost – Tuesday, March 14, 7pm (Susan Ryman, hostess at the parsonage)

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*.

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, 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.”

Friendship Club will meet March 21, at 10:30am, in the Fellowship Hall. The senior group from Grace Lutheran Church will meet with us. Mr. Virgil Dial, “The Cross Man”, will present a program on how he turns ordinary wood into crosses that represent stages of Jesus's life. A covered dish meal will be served after the presentation. Since we will be serving the guest group, please add a bit more to your dish.

Friendship Club meets the third Tuesday of each month.

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!

Easter 2023

Easter Fun, April 8—Saturday, April 8th, the middle and high school youth should be at the church at 10am, to help set up for the Easter morning breakfast. ***The youth need to bring a dozen eggs for the Easter breakfast, please.*** After the breakfast set-up, they will help with the Easter egg hunt for the younger children.

The egg hunt is 1pm-2:30pm for children through 5th grade.

Easter Sunday, April 9—High school youth and parents will meet at the church to begin cooking breakfast by 6:15am Easter morning. Middle and grade school youth should be in the fellowship hall by 7:15am to prepare and get instructions for serving.

Cruise 'n Barbecue 2023 – Saturday, April 29

Planning for the 2023 Cruise 'n Barbecue is well underway. The 2022 event set the record of 154 classic cars on display so the bar is set high for this year. We need everyone's support to make this another great outreach and fundraising event at St. Paul's. All proceeds are designated to fund the Helping Hands Ministry.

Various groups in the church are busy building raffle baskets. Port-a-Pit Barbeque will be cooking up lots of chicken and the St. Paul's family will be preparing the sides for a delicious meal. Other concessions such as kettle corn, pork rinds, snow cones, and Italian ice will be available throughout the day as well.

It is not too late to volunteer! Please speak to Susan Ryman after worship any Sunday or contact her by phone or text at 336-226-8240. Don't miss a minute of the fun and fellowship.

Thanks,
Susan

Blood Drive—February, 2023

Thanks to all who came to donate at the February Blood Drive at our church. Forty-four people came to donate (three were not able to register because of health issues), forty-one registered to donate and six were deferred because of medications or low hemoglobin. Thirty-five donated and with five persons giving double rbc. The total units credited to St. Paul's was 40 units! This is a wonderful response that will help meet the needs of our community. Nine persons were first-time donors at our church and will hopefully return for future donations.

Our next blood drive is Monday, May 8th, 1:30-6pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Alice Davis

Rowan Helping Ministries

St. Paul's volunteers delivered 38 pounds of food to RHM on February 13th. Thank you for supporting this ministry. You may check the RHM website to see the current needs: <https://rowanhelpingministries.org/donate>. There you 'll see ways to donate to those in need, including how to volunteer your time.

History Room Committee Update

The History Room Committee is up and running again for 2023. We have met a few times to clean and make the room presentable for viewing again. Moving forward, we would like to make St. Paul's photos available for everyone to enjoy. That being said, we need a few things from you. If you have any old photos of past members, the building and grounds, or events held by the church that you wouldn't mind sharing, they would be greatly appreciated. Photos would be scanned and returned to you ASAP. So dig deep and let's see who we can find!

Also, if you have an old digital picture frame lying around collecting dust, we could put it to use. Thanks for your help. Please submit photos to me, Crystal Bost.

Outreach News

Thanks so much for supporting the Outreach Valentine Dinner/Not-So-Newlywed game on February 18th. We sold 98 tickets and our contestants did not disappoint! We appreciate Pastor Mark and Susan, Tricia and Larry and Chad and Abby for being such good sports to be our contestants. It is still not clear the one word to describe how the husbands wake up in the morning. But Chad acquired a new nickname! Thanks to all who helped set up and take down for the event.

We will have an Outreach Tent at the Cruise-In on April 29th. Anyone who wants to sit there for part of the day is encouraged to mark one of the pink sign-up sheets or let Susan Ryman know. We will have a brochure of church events, new testaments, puzzles, pens and flashlights to give out. This is always a fun event and hopefully a good outreach event as well.

Mark your calendar for the Outreach committee's next event. We are going to have a Community Concert with Matthew Weaver on Friday, May 19th at 7pm. Help us spread the word to family and friends and let's fill the fellowship hall up!

Thank you for standing shoulder-to-shoulder with Radical in 2022 with your generous donations of \$1,061.61.

From reaching young adults and college students, to encouraging pastors, to mobilizing Latin American believers, to growing the Radical audience, to funding work on the frontlines among the unreached—none of this happens without the support of our Radical friends. It's an honor to be co-laborers for Christ with you. Imagine with us the faces of people who currently have no access to the gospel receiving the good news about Jesus for the first time. Imagine the joy of meeting them in eternity and knowing you helped them experience eternal life.

Thank you for being a part of their story. Together with you, we're praying that God would use our strategic efforts, innovation, sacrifice, and generosity to reach the nations reached for the glory of Jesus' name. Thank you!

The Radical Team

As we maneuver through another cold, wet January to prepare for tax season, our hearts are warm and joyful as we reflect on the ways donors supported our community in 2022. The financial gifts you made to Rowan Helping Ministries are listed below.

Last year, generous and caring donors like you made these impacts possible:

- 930 households received \$586,395 in financial assistance for rent, utilities, medicine, and other critical needs
- 566 different guests were provided a safe place to spend the night in our shelter
- 57,847 meals were served to the hungry in Jeannie's Kitchen
- 2,185 households visited our food pantries, where 1,029,110 pounds of groceries were distributed
- 26,424 Food for Thought food bags were given to food insecure Rowan County students each week, including summer months, so they would have enough to eat

The challenges all citizens have faced in the past three years could have weakened our resolve to help our neighbors in need. But I know with certainty that the spirit of giving long ingrained in our donors has not faded. You have answered God's call to care for our most fragile citizens. For your gifts and loving hearts, we are thankful.

Kyna S. Grubb, RHM Executive Director

Thanks to all who sent me cards, visited, and provided food during my recent surgery and hospitalization. Also, thanks to those who visited Grady and took him snacks while he was in respite care during my confinement. These acts of kindness toward both of us meant so much to us. What a great church family we have!

Jenny Earnhardt

*St. Paul's is pleased to welcome into our church family,
Alexandria Jacqueline-Marie Lockwood (Newsome).
Alexandria was baptized on Sunday, February 12, 2023.*



In Honor of...

Gifts were received in honor of the baptism of
Alexandria Jaqueline-Marie Lockwood (Newsome) from
Sybil Athey
Jennifer and Lee Aldridge
Susan and Ben Bernhardt
Crystal and Dana Bost
Alice Davis
Karen and Tim Deal

Memorial Gifts

A gift was received in memory of Ruby Heilig for the General Fund from
Crystal and Dana Bost

A gift was received in memory of Mary Sherrill for the General Fund from
Herman Ritchie

A gift was received in memory of Chase Fritz for the Capital Building Fund from
Susan and Ben Bernhardt
Karen and Tim Deal



*We extend our love, sympathy, and prayers to the family of
Chase Fritz, who died February 8, 2023.
Chase was the step-grandson of Phillip and Melinda Redding.*

*We offer our love and sympathy to Susan Ryman on the
death of her sister, Carol Helfrich, from Springfield, Ohio.
Ms. Helfrich died Tuesday, February 21, 2023.
Please keep Susan and all her family in prayer.*

The Altar Guild will soon be ordering Sunpatiens to adorn the chancel area for Easter Sunday. If you would like to purchase one or more flowers, please complete the top portion of the form provided in the back of this newsletter, and turn it in with the appropriate amount to cover your purchase.

If you wish to give to the Youth Fund in lieu of a flower, please complete the bottom portion of the form, and turn it in with your gift.

Make checks payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. *No need to tear the form apart.*

Scholarship Applications

Scholarship applications are available for members of St. Paul's who will attend college this fall. Please be sure to read the instructions carefully for each application, as there may be different requirements. Some are specifically for those pursuing a full-time Ministry career. You may find the applications in the narthex, or you may print them from the website StPaulsLutheran.Church/Scholarships. The deadline to turn in all applications is May 1st.

Online Giving is accessible at StPaulsLutheran.Church/give.

There is a minimal fee for each transaction (3% for cards, 1% for bank draft).

Income and Expenses for January 2023

Income: \$38,317 • Expenses: \$29,660

Income > Expense for January: +\$8,657

Capital Building Fund, January 31, 2023: \$238,316

February income/expense report will be in the April Newsletter.

**YOU SHALL NOT TAKE THE
NAME OF THE LORD YOUR GOD
IN VAIN, FOR THE LORD
WILL NOT HOLD HIM GUILTYLESS
WHO TAKES HIS NAME IN VAIN.**

— EXODUS 20:7 —

Blessed is the Man

Find the 30 **bold** words from Psalm 32:1-5 (ESV)

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

Blessed is the one whose **transgression** is **forgiven**, whose **sin** is **covered**. Blessed is the man against whom the **LORD** **counts** no **iniquity**, and in whose **spirit** there is no **deceit**. For when I **kept silent**, my **bones wasted away** through my **groaning all day long**. For day and **night** your **hand** was **heavy** upon me; my **strength** was **dried up** as by the **heat** of **summer**. *Selah* I **acknowledged** my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, “I will **confess** my transgressions to the LORD,” and you **forgave** the iniquity of my sin. *Selah*

Sun Impatiens for Easter Sunday

Orders for Sun Impatiens will be accepted through March 26th. The cost is \$12 per plant. These will be placed around the altar for our Easter worship service on April 9th. Please return the completed form with your payment no later than March 26th.

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Given By: _____

Number of Impatiens _____ Total purchase \$ _____

(please do not tear this form)

In lieu of flowers—If you wish to honor or remember a loved one without purchasing a flower, please complete the information below and return the form with your donation of any amount. Funds in lieu of flowers will go to St. Paul's Youth for providing, preparing, and serving our Easter breakfast.

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Total given in lieu of a flower: \$ _____

Make checks payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Orders may be placed in the offering plate, turned in to the church office, (or mailed if you send it early).

You may take your flowers with you after the 10:30am
Easter worship service on April 9.



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

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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.