



The Monthly Epistle

of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Volume 70, Issue 3 • March 2024

I love Lent. The midweek meals and services have been a source of joy since my boyhood at St. Luke's. I recall the same soup and sandwich suppers happening there as we enjoy here. But I don't remember having a dozen kinds of soups at St. Luke's like we do at St. Paul's. We did have Lenten services after the suppers, and the same gospel was heard there in Springfield, Ohio, sixty years ago as we proclaim in Salisbury, North Carolina, today.

That is one of the reasons I love Lent so much. Like Christmas Eve and other special times and services, my memories remind me of the truth that we confess in the third article of the Apostles Creed. We believe in "the communion of saints." The Holy Spirit has called us by the gospel, enlightened us with his gifts, sanctified and kept us in the true faith. In the same way, he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth—not just we Lutherans, and not just for the past 60 years.

Through the millennia, God has been faithful to keep his whole church in the one true faith. I am grateful to be a part of that vast communion with you. So, I will be here Wednesday night for soup and sandwiches, the fellowship of the saints, and the worship of the God of our salvation. I hope to see you there.

See you in church!

Pr. Ryman

2024 Cemetery Sweep

On **Saturday, March 16th**, St. Paul's cemetery will be swept clean. The clean-up will be lead by the Cemetery Committee. If you would like to help, please be here at 9am to get started.

Everything that is not permanently attached will be discarded—no exceptions. If you have flowers or other items in the cemetery that you wish to keep, those should be removed from the cemetery by the morning of March 16th. You may replace your items after the clean-up.

If you know of anyone who does not attend St. Paul's and should know about the clean-up, please call them right away so they will have time to gather items they may want to keep. Thank you for helping to keep our cemetery neat and clean.

Friendship Club

The Friendship Club will meet on Thursday, March 21st, at 10:30am in the fellowship hall. A covered dish meal will be served. Everyone is welcome to join us for fellowship and good food. Hope to see you March 21st.

Lutheran Women Circle Meetings

Bonnie Bost—Tues., March 12, 7pm
Ellen Bumgarner—Wed., March 6, 10am
Kathy Ketchie—Sun., March 10, 4pm
Hama Lingle—Mon., March 4, 7pm
Melissa Lura—Mon., March 11, 6pm
Grace Ridenhour—Tues., March 5, 6:30pm

Kitchen Refrigerator

Please do not leave food from your event in the kitchen refrigerator. Space is needed with Shrove Tuesday, the Valentine meal, and Lenten meals coming up. There is room in the two refrigerators in the picnic shelter if your food items need to be stored for more than a day before or after use of the kitchen.

Youth & Family Game Night

Join us for Youth and Family Game Night on **Friday, March 1st at 6:30pm**. We will have pizza, drinks, and desserts. We will play board games and have other activities for the youth and families. All are welcome. Bring your favorite board game to share. Look forward to seeing you all there in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please call Amy Hoffner at 704-640-7165.

History Room

Have you visited the St. Paul's History Room lately? Ever? If you don't know, it's located across the hall from the pastor's office. Over the last year, the History Committee has been busy. The room itself had become a gathering place for items that no one knew what to do with. But it has now been cleaned and organized for your viewing pleasure. While there is much work left to do (History is an ongoing process, after all), we are proud of the progress that we've made. We have added a new cabinet dedicated to the projects of the Lutheran Women. That alone is worth checking out. Please set aside a few minutes one day to drop by for a look. Who knows, you just might learn something.

Sincerely,

The History Committee

Bible Study Webpage

A new section has been added to our website called "Bible Studies." There you may find videos of our Tuesday Bible Study, "The Spiritual Realms." All nine sessions will eventually be posted. Links to additional resources and for the participant's workbook are also listed on the page. Find resources in the navigational line at the top of any of our webpages, then click Bible Studies.

<https://stpaulslutheran.church/blog/title/a2391>

Lenten Services

Lenten Suppers continue on Wednesdays through March 27th. The suppers are at 6:00pm in the fellowship hall. Lenten services are at 7:00pm in the sanctuary and will last about 30 minutes.

Maundy Thursday service is at 7:00pm, March 28th. Good Friday service is the next day at 7:00pm, with no meals on Thursday or Friday—services only.

Wednesday Evening Lenten Meals

Suppers during March will be provided by the following:

March 6

Bonnie Bost Circle—soup and sandwiches

March 13

Friendship Club—soup and pimento cheese sandwiches

March 20

Youth & Family Committee—soup and sandwiches

March 27

Bible Study Classes—soup and sandwiches

*Special thanks to all the groups who have volunteered their time
to prepare meals for our Wednesday suppers during Lent.
Our thanks to Helen Gordon for organizing the meals.*

Thank You

Pastor Ryman and church family, I would like to thank you and all who cared for me when I became ill at church several Sunday's ago. Dana, Terry, Chris, Brenda, and Ashley were with me until the ambulance arrived. You gave up your Sunday afternoon to visit while I was still in the ER. Thank you all. Church family, thank you for your prayers, the beautiful cards, and telephone calls during my recovery. I am so fortunate to belong to St. Paul's Church Family. May God bless each of you.

Helen Gordon

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who sent a card or said a prayer for my daughter, Lynn Price. Lynn, who lived in Michigan, died February 1st. I appreciate everyone's thoughtfulness.

Betty Camerlin

The family of Jeffrey Powlas would like to express our gratitude to the ladies of the church for the food prior to his funeral, everyone that took part in his service, and to our church family that has shown so much love and support.

I really don't have enough words, or the right words, to let you know how grateful we are. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we continue to go through this unexpected change in our lives.

Love in Christ,
Mita and Family

Alan and I would like to thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for the outpouring of love we have received during our recent loss of Jeff. The cards, visits, text, calls, and food have meant more than you know. Jeff was such a big part of our lives and having such a strong church family has helped us in this journey.

Love to all,
Alan and Terri Powlas

Thank you for all your cards, prayers, and visits after my fall on Christmas day. It's so nice to have a family of support like ours here at St. Paul's. Note to all my friends: Be careful on ladders.

Paul S. Canup

Thank you to my church family for all the cards and kind words that my family has received since the death of my mother. Even though she didn't attend St. Paul's she always had a high regard for the people here and the way they worked together.

Crystal Canup and family

February Calendar of Events

Sundays

- Sunday School, each week at 9:30am
- Worship service, each week at 10:30am
- Men's Choir practice, each week at 4pm
- Hand Bell practice, each week at 5pm
- Vespers at the Parsonage—fellowship at 6pm; prayer at 6:30pm
- March 3 – Breakfast before Sunday School, 8:30am
- March 3 – Rev Dr. Nathan Yoder, Dept of Lutheran Studies, preaching
- March 3 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- March 3 – Youth & Family Committee, 2pm
- March 10 – Girl Scout Sunday
- March 10 – Worship & Music Committee, conf. room, 1:30pm
- March 10 – Christian Education Committee, 2:30pm
- March 10 – Kathy Ketchie Circle, 4pm
- March 17 – Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- March 24 – Palm Sunday
- March 31 – Easter Sunrise service in cemetery, 7am
- March 31 – Easter breakfast, fellowship hall, 8am
- March 31 – Easter Resurrection service, sanctuary, 10:30am

Mondays

- Faith Academy after-school program, 1–3pm
(no program on March 11)
- March 4 – Hama Lingle Circle, 7pm
- March 11 – Melissa Lura Circle, 6pm
- March 11 – Cruise 'n Steering Committee, 7pm
- March 18 – Council meeting, 6:30pm
- March 18 – April newsletter articles due this week
- March 25 – Lutheran Men's meeting, 6:30pm

Tuesdays

- Bible Study classes, at 10am and 6pm
- Girl Scouts meet each week at 6:45pm
- March 5 – Extension Club, 1pm
- March 5 – Grace Ridenhour Circle, 6:30pm
- March 12 – Bonnie Bost Circle, 7pm
- March 19 – Staff meeting, 5pm

Wednesdays

- Homeschool group meets Wednesdays, 8:30–3:30
- Each Wednesday during March, supper will be served in the fellowship hall at 6pm, followed by a Lenten service in the sanctuary at 7pm. Services will last about 30 minutes.
- Adult Choir practice, each week, 7:30 during Lent
- No Confirmation class during Lent; restarts April 3rd
- March 6 – Ellen Bumgarner Circle, 10am
- March 27 – Autumn Care chapel service, 2pm

Thursdays

- March 21 – Friendship Club, 10:30am
- March 28 – Maundy Thursday service, 7pm

Fridays

- March 1 – Youth & Family Game Night, 6:30pm
- March 29 – Good Friday service, 7pm

Saturdays

- March 16 – Cemetery Sweep, 9am
Everything in the cemetery will be discarded.
- March 30 – Youth prep for Easter breakfast, 10:30am
- March 30 – Easter egg hunt for K–5, 1pm

I Believe

Find the 30 **bold** words from the third article of the Apostles Creed.

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

I **believe** in the **Holy Spirit**, **one** holy **Christian church**, the **communion** of saints, the **forgiveness** of sins, the **resurrection** of the **body**, and the **life everlasting**. What does this mean?

Answer: I believe that I cannot by my own **reason** or **strength** believe in **Jesus Christ**, my Lord, or come to him; but the Holy Spirit has **called** me by the **gospel**, **enlightened** me with his gifts, **sanctified** and **kept** me in the true **faith**. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the **whole** Christian church on **earth**, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church he daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the **Last Day** he will **raise** up me and all the **dead**, and give eternal **life** to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly **true**.

*We extend our love and sympathy to Betty and Don Camerlin
on the loss of Betty's daughter, Lynn Price.
Ms. Price, who lived in Michigan, died February 1, 2024.
Please keep Betty and her family in your prayers.*



*We extend our love and sympathy to Crystal Canup and family
on the loss of Crystal's mother, Virginia Swindell.
Mrs. Swindell died Sunday, February 4, 2024.
Please keep Crystal and her family in your prayers.*



*We extend our prayers, love, and sympathy to Gina Wilhelm
on the death of her sister, Monica Willis Eaton.,
Monica passed away Wednesday, February 14, 2024.*



*We extend our prayers, love, and sympathy to Tammy Leazer and
family on the death of Tammy's uncle, Donald Eidson,
who passed away Tuesday, February 13th, 2024.*



*We extend our love and sympathy to the family of Carolyn Cress
who passed away Saturday, February 17, 2024.
Our condolences also on the death of Carolyn's daughter,
Cheryl Cress Palmer, on February 20th, 2024.
Please keep the Cress family in your prayers.*

**For if we live, we live to the Lord,
and if we die, we die to the Lord.
So then, whether we live
or whether we die, we are the Lord's.**

Memorial Gifts

Gifts were received in memory of Carolyn Cress for the Capital Building Fund from

Alice Davis

Helen Gordon

A gift was received in memory of Monica Willis Eaton for the Capital Building Fund from

Bonnie and Wayne Hinson

A gift was received in memory of Lynn Price for the Capital Building Fund from

Susan and Mark Ryman

Gifts were received in memory of Virginia Swindell for St. Paul's Capital Building Fund from

Susan and Ben Bernhardt

Lori and Perry Bernhardt

Crystal and Dana Bost

Alice Davis

Bonnie and Wayne Hinson

Judi and D.W. Honbarger

Susan and Mark Ryman

Gifts were received in memory of Jerry Alligood for the Capital Building Fund from

Lori and Perry Bernhardt

Susan and Ben Bernhardt

Crystal and Dana Bost

Alice Davis

Jenny and Grady Earnhardt

Helen Gordon

Cindy and Frank Hinson

Judi and D.W. Honbarger

Susan and Mark Ryman

Jeanne and Tony Shaver

A gift was received in memory of Jerry Alligood for the Helping Hands Fund from

Myra Jane and Terry Eller

A gift was received in memory of Haynes Shirley for the Capital Building Fund from

Donna and Alan Lyerly

A gift was received in memory of Carolyn Faggart for the Carillon Fund from

Karen and Tim Deal

Gifts were received in memory of Carolyn Faggart for the Capital Building Fund from

Lori and Perry Bernhardt

Susan and Ben Bernhardt

Crystal and Dana Bost

Alice Davis

Bonnie and Wayne Hinson

Cindy and Frank Hinson

Judi and D.W. Honbarger

Susan and Mark Ryman

Jeanne and Tony Shaver

Sunday School Class #4 & 6

A gift was received in memory of Carolyn Faggart for the Capital Building Fund from

Helen Gordon

A gift was received in memory of Carolyn Faggart for the Helping Hands Fund from

Myra Jane and Terry Eller

A gift was received in memory of Jeff Powlas for the General Fund from

Herman Ritchie

Gifts were received in memory of Jeff Powlas for the Capital Building Fund from

Jennifer and Lee Aldridge
Cheryl and Vernon Bernhardt
Susan and Ben Bernhardt
Lori and Perry Bernhardt
Crystal and Dana Bost
Debbie Campbell and James Morris
Carolyn and John Canup
David Chilson
Teresa and Kim Cress
Alice Davis
Jean and Jimmie Deal
Karen and Tim Deal
Jenny and Grady Earnhardt
Mary Lee and James Earnhardt
Louise and Harold Eller
Patsy Everhart
Helen Gordon
Bonnie and Wayne Hinson
Cindy and Frank Hinson
Judi and D.W. Honbarger
Melissa and D. J. Lura
Donna and Alan Lyerly
Elliott Mathis
Betty Monroe
James Ponder
Jayne Ponder
Nancy Powell
Mita Powlas
Terri and Alan Powlas
Cindy and Spencer Newsome
Charlton Rogers
Susan and Mark Ryman
Jeanne and Tony Shaver
Jody and Kim Shuping
Janie and Tim Sifford
Joyce Spencer
Anthony Tippens

Wanda Thomas
Bethany, Kenneth, Lauren,
and Lindsey Whisnant
Nancy and Vaughn Wilhelm
Jane and Wayne Wilhelm
Bonnie Bost Circle
St. Paul's Lutheran Men

Gifts were received in memory of Jeff Powlas for Improvement Fund from

Wilbur Canup
Jan and Bob McCanless
Franda Raymer

A gift was received in memory of Jeff Powlas for the Helping Hands Fund from

Myra Jane and Terry Eller

To Honor

A gift was received in honor of Sybil Athey for the Capital Building Fund from

Tommy Fink

A gift was received in honor of Wayne Hinson for the Capital Building Fund from

Tommy Fink

A gift was received in honor of Larry and Leilani Watson for the Capital Building Fund from

Tommy Fink

A gift was received in honor of Pamela Cottingham for the Capital Building Fund from

Tommy Fink

February Blood Drive Results

Thank you to all who registered to donate at the February blood drive at our church. Unfortunately, because of a low turnout, only 21 units of blood were collected. Thirty persons registered to donate and ten were deferred. One person donated a double-red blood cell which counted as two units.

Excuses for not trying to donate can always be found—bad weather, road closure, more important things need to be done, etc. In our own congregation, **only 13 persons registered.**

Each Sunday, 15-20 members attending church have been faithful donors in the past but can no longer donate. Some of those have tried two to three times and were deferred. These people have legitimate reasons for not being able to donate. Members under 16 years of age cannot donate, and some members cannot come due to work schedules. These things considered, that **still leaves over 50 members that regularly attend worship who are eligible to give.**

90% of our members were donors when the church began having blood drives over 20 years ago. Only 30% - 35% register now. Fortunately, the church has community donors that make up the difference. There are three more blood drives this year.

Most of you know family member or friend that has needed a transfusion. Please consider helping out at our future drives with “the gift of life” that can never be repaid.

Alice Davis,
Blood Drive Coordinator

Offering for January 2024

General Fund Offering for the month: \$39,584 • Year-to-Date as of January 31: \$39,584

February General Fund report will be in the April Epistle.

Online Giving is accessible at StPaulsLutheran.Church/give.

Scanning this QR code will take you directly to the giving page.

There is a minimal fee for each transaction.



Missions

Thank you for locking arms with Radical in 2023 through your generous donations totaling \$3,628.62.

With your support, we've been able to carry out our mission through initiatives in both red zones and green zones, each contributing to the advancement of God's kingdom.

God's grace and your partnership are the driving forces behind each of our initiatives. Thank you for amplifying our impact and reaching even more people with the love of Christ.

In Him,
The Radical Team

Thank you for your gift of \$384.22 to the ministry of Samaritan's Purse. In the U. S. and over 110 countries around the world, your gifts and prayers equip us to teach this Biblical truth, give new homes to those who have lost them in storms, and offer fresh beginnings to families in impoverished areas through training in livelihoods. Thank you for helping us extend this hope in Jesus' name. God bless you.

Sincerely,
Franklin Graham
President

Thank you for keeping our little one's feet warm with your shoe donations.

Koontz Elementary School

Hello from your friends at Focus on the Family, and many thanks for your generous \$384.22 donation to our ministry. As 2024 gets underway we're excited to report that opportunities for effective family outreach around the world have never been more abundant. Thanks again for coming alongside us in our work. Grace, peace, and blessings to you.

Sincerely,
Jim Daly
President

Shelter Donations

Many needy people in East Rowan have a difficult time getting down to Rowan Helping Ministries, so Organ Lutheran is now meeting the needs of more than 100 families. St. Paul's will help them meet the needs of even more of our neighbors.

If you wish to donate to the shelter, you may bring non-perishable food items to the church and place them in the same plastic receptacles we have been using. Our property brothers will make sure it gets over to Organ Lutheran Church.

Please do not bring clothing donations to St. Paul's—carry those straight to the shelter at Organ. It would be wise to call ahead to let them know you will be coming over. The church office number is 704-279-3096.

Helping Hands

Helping Hands is a ministry of St. Paul's that operates with discretion and privacy. It exists to help our church members when unexpected financial needs arise. The committee also considers needs of non-members who have been referred to the committee by a member of St. Paul's.

Anyone in need should not contact the pastor. He does not make these decisions. All decisions are made by the committee.

The church secretary keeps application forms in the office. Come by to fill out your application and it will be forwarded to the committee for consideration.

The Helping Hands Committee is anonymous but you should know that they act on applications quickly, usually in just a few days. That said, sometimes it can take a week or more for everyone's schedules to allow a meeting.

Our annual Cruise'n Barbecue is the major funding for Helping Hands. However, many members also make special offerings for this ministry throughout the year. If you would like to contribute, make sure your check memo line or the blue offering envelope notes: "Helping Hands."

St. Paul's Congregation Council

Serving through 2024:

Jason Bernhardt bernhardt98@yahoo.com
Perry Bernhardt perryhbernhardt@gmail.com
Paul Canup paulscanup@yahoo.com
Louise Eller leller6@gmail.com
Brent Monroe bmonroe2009@live.com
Greg Wilhelm wilhelmgrego2@gmail.com

Serving through 2025:

Travis Alligood travisalligood@gmail.com
Eric Barringer ebarringer@bellsouth.net
Michael Canup mcanup@triad.rr.com
Larry Clark clarklarry476@gmail.com
Randall Faggart rfaggart@gmail.com
Amy Hoffner amy.hoffner13@gmail.com

Serving through 2026:

Gina Barringer ginabarringer@yahoo.com
Susan Bernhardt srbernhardt@carolina.rr.com
Dana Bost dana.bost59@gmail.com
Josh Canup jcanup5.0@gmail.com
Tim Canup tcanup@carolina.rr.com
Lisa Monroe lmonroe2013@live.com

Officers:

President: Perry Bernhardt
Vice-President: Dana Bost
Secretary: Gina Barringer



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: secretary@stpaulslutheran.church

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
secretary@stpaulslutheran.church

Perry Bernhardt, Council President
perryhbernhardt@gmail.com

John Brock, Music Director
splcmusicsalisbury@gmail.com

Johnsie Taylor, Organist
jtaylor783@aol.com

Judy Lowman, Treasurer
splcjwl63@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 mailing or email list, please contact the church office.