

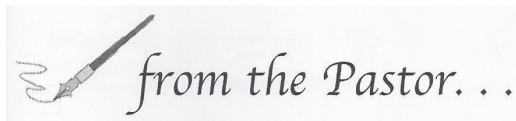


ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Bell Ringer

Dear Church,

As this month's BellRinger is hitting your mail and inboxes, we're on the precipice of culminating our Lenten pilgrimage and entering into Holy Week. While some might look at the week like running a marathon with so many service opportunities, it really is one of my favorite times. While I love Christmas and the joy of that holiday season, Holy Week and Easter feel a little more like we get to shape the narrative of the gatherings. Rather than competing with the rush and consumerism that Santa and his reindeer usher in, this holy week shows another layer of God's abundant love for all creation all on its own.



[Getting ready for this season, one of our planning resources talks about these holy days in this way:](#)

"The Lenten themes of paradox and liminality are brought to the forefront in the echo of the Passover story that forms the backdrop for the narrative of Jesus' last days. The liberation theme of Passover—moving from slavery to freedom—is reflected in the passion story of liberation from the power of death. The refrain "Do not be afraid" in Matthew's story of resurrection reminds us that there are fears of the unknown, even when leaving behind slavery and death. The Passover teachings to let go and leave it all behind, traveling light, offer a metaphorical framework for the stories of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday." (Sundays & Seasons, Preparing for the Three Days (Year A))

At St. Paul's, we have a myriad of opportunities to gather throughout this Holy Week, and I hope you will mark your calendar to enter into them. Our Palm Sunday gathering on April 2nd begins with a triumphant celebration and includes a dramatic telling of the whole Passion narrative. On April 6th we gather for Maundy Thursday, hearing the command to love one another, which we exemplify in caring for our global neighbor by assembling the LWR Baby Care Kits collected during Lent (and celebrating First Communion!). Good Friday on April 7th gathers us around the words and phrases that mark Jesus' final hours and death on the cross, with space for reflective music and silence. And our Easter celebrations on Sunday, April 9th will joyfully proclaim the good news that the tomb is empty, and death holds no power anymore.



Soon we will proclaim, "Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!" once again, and be sent forth to share this good news far and wide!

In Christ,
Pastor Ed

"Rooted in the way of Jesus, St. Paul's Lutheran Church generously serves and nurtures faith across generations, centered within the Lutherville community."

Your 2023 Congregation Council Leaders

Executive Committee (officers):

Sue DePasquale President
Ann Kerns Vice President
Karen Shea Treasurer
Penny Graf Secretary

Committee Representatives:

Aimee Green Worship & Music
Ann Kerns Gifts & Memorials
Pete Koehler Property (Chair)
Heather Prender Preschool Board
Tony South Finance Committee (Chair)

In February 2023 we received \$31,012.05 in regular offerings.

Recent Gifts:

Recent Gifts include: \$321.38 to the Community of St. Dymas, which was the February Special Offering.

Mission Investment Fund:

2023 payments towards the mortgage with Mission Investment Fund (MIF) total \$21,036 which includes \$12,004.13 towards the principal of the mortgage and \$9,031.87 in interest.

Creative Fundraising:

2023 income raised by the Creative Fundraising Committee totals \$2,781.24. This amount will be paid towards the principal of the mortgage with MIF in January 2024.

What Does Your Offering Help to Support?

What does our offering pay for? Each month we highlight different fixed and variable expenses paid here at St. Paul's to help members better understand our budget costs.

In February 2023 we paid \$192 to Davey Tree for tree work and \$2,130 to janitorial services for ongoing daily cleaning of Spangler Hall and the Parish Hall.

Church Administration: Member Directory Updates

We are in the process of refreshing our Member Directory at St. Paul's. Please update your contact information if needed and share a recent digital photograph by using the form link in the weekly email newsletter or contacting the church office via Sharon Greason at office@stpaulslutherville.org. Submissions are due by Monday, April 3. Thank you!

Our Special Offering for April is our St. Paul's Preschool

The preschool is a ministry to educate children in a Christian environment and point them to be independent thinkers and life-long learners. Our preschool families share our commitment to grow toward God by helping others. The years of early childhood provide a unique opportunity to encourage, inspire, and establish strong educational practices on a faith-filled foundation. We deliver an education that addresses the whole child—social, intellectual, emotional, physical, and spiritual. Your generous giving this month will financially support funding for reduced-tuition applications.

We need more St. Paul's Preschool graduates in our community. Join us to support tuition assistance for St. Paul's students with your April's special offering envelopes or electronic giving. Thank you!

From the Archives

The schedule for Holy Week 1967 was as follows: Wednesday evening was a Preparatory Service. Thursday morning at 6:30 AM were Pre-Dawn Devotions followed at 7 AM by a Continental Breakfast in Spangler Hall (the old house). Thursday evening was the Holy Thursday Communion Service. Friday morning again were the Pre-Dawn Devotions followed by the Continental Breakfast. Friday Evening was the Service of Worship Through Music presented by the choir with instrumental accompaniment. Saturday was the Morning Devotions at 8:30 AM followed by the Continental Breakfast. On Easter was Our Young People's Sunrise Service at Loch Raven Dam. A service with Communion was at 8:30 AM followed by a service at 11 AM. Attendance was 166 at the 8:30 service and 230 at the 11 AM service.

- Ron Garman, Archivist

Social Ministry: Movie & Pot Luck Dinner

Thursday, April 13, 2023, @ 6:00 p.m. in Spangler Hall



Showing...

Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris
starring Lesley Manville

A widowed cleaning lady in 1950s London falls madly in love with a couture Dior dress, and decides that she must have one of her own.

Join us and bring your favorite beverage and your favorite pot luck dinner, dessert, salad or appetizer to share. Help with setup would be appreciated at 5:30 p.m. Please direct any questions to Susan Lilly

Praying for Our Community

(as of March 17, 2023)

Prayer List: James Albright, Jackie Bosley, Jim Buechting, Claudenia Burgemeister, Gabriel DeJesus, Joe DePasquale, Carter Diamond, Ellie Fader, Christine Ferciot, Joe & Cindy Feinour, Giacubeno family, Gurkin family, Barbara Hoban, Annette Howard, Zachary Hueter, TR James, Jeri Johnson, Kendall Kelly, Maureen Kelly, Ed Kemp, Melissa Krofka, Kathy Lumsden, Luke Markins, Mike McDuffen, Donna Morris-Snoussi, Donna & Mike Nagrabski, Samantha Nagrabski, Nikki Ortuglio, Merton Peitersen, Pyles family, Walt Radek, William Randall, Martha Rediehs, Sara Reynolds, Rich Rosario, Alexander Russo, Jearlean "Jeri" Sanders, Olga Schmidt, Bob Schult, Marianna Shea, Joan Sheckells, Walter Sprinkle, Dee Taylor, Michael Taylor, Renate' Taylor, Pat Thompson, Paul & Dot Tucker-Houk, David Visscher, Jeani & Marsha Wagner, Roxy White, Tom Wilhide, Dee Zimmer

Study This Sunday Bible Study

Formerly known as The Tuesday Bible study, Study this Sunday takes place each Tuesday afternoon from 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. over Zoom. No previous Bible study experience needed! We look at the Sunday readings for the upcoming week, which you can find in the weekly electronic newsletters if you would like to read through them in advance. You're free to join every week, or every once in a while as your schedule allows.

You can use the Zoom app on your computer, tablet, or phone to enter the connection information: Meeting ID: 653 409 898 ~ Passcode: 099279 OR you can call in with the number 301 715 8592 and enter the same above information to join that way. Please be in touch with Pastor Ed if you have any questions or need help getting connected!

Social Ministry: Quilting Group

The Quilting Group will meet on the first and third Thursday of the month at 1 p.m. in the Spangler Hall Youth Room. All are welcome to participate!

Happy Birthday!

Have we missed someone? If your birthday is this month and you don't see your name here, please let the church office know (410-252-3768 or office@stpaulslutherville.org).

4/1 Jeff Blomgren
4/3 Matt Parks
4/5 Deasia Huffman
4/7 John Carpenter
4/7 Deborah Novotny
4/8 Eric Heider
4/11 Brian Goodwin

4/13 Ron Garman
4/14 Brittany Ferciot
4/19 Donna Orpin
4/20 Brooke Alexander
4/20 Sydney Steele
4/21 Hutch Vernon
4/22 Ann Kerns

Happy Anniversary!

4/12 Joe & Gail Abe
4/16 Alison & Matthew
Clemmens
4/29 James Jr. & JoAnn Fader

Congratulations!

Health Ministry: Gratitude

As I am writing this article, we are in the midst of Lent. This Lenten season, I adopted the daily practice of Gratitude Journal writing, after I came across a study from the University of California at Berkeley entitled, “How Gratitude Changes You and Your Brain”.

This article cited that the practice of Gratitude—either writing in a daily journal or writing a letter of Gratitude once a week over three weeks to another person—had positive mental health benefits that evolved over three to four weeks.

What would your entry be for today in your Gratitude Journal?

“Let gratitude be the pillow upon
which you kneel to say your
nightly prayer. And let faith be
the bridge you build to overcome
evil and welcome good.”
- Maya Angelou

Property: Spring Grounds Clean Up

Save the date! Our spring grounds clean-up day is scheduled for May 6th from 10a.m.–2p.m. We will be weeding, planting, mulching, and pruning bushes.

You may come at any time and stay as long as your schedule allows. Look for more information in newsletters and church announcements. For questions please contact Nancy Forno

Health Ministry: National Take Back Day will occur on April 22

In April the public health focus across the country will be: **National Take Back Prescription Day**, promoted by the DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration).

Studies and data compiled by the DEA find that:

- Unused or expired prescriptions are a leading cause of accidental poisoning, misuse, and/or overdose.
- Proper disposal of outdated or unused prescription medications not only saves lives, but also protects the environment.
- For further information go to: www.deatakeback.com

It's important to periodically take inventory of your medicine cabinets. Look for expired or unused medications. So how do you properly dispose of medications?

- 1. Look for disposal guidance on the medication labeling by the drug manufacturer.
- 2. If no instructions are available, go to these websites:
 - FDA Food and Drug Administration: www.go.usa.gov/xNw9zs
 - EPA Environmental Protection Agency: www.go.usa.gov/xNwXc

Additionally, throughout the year, the Baltimore County Department of Health and the Baltimore County Police Department offer a “take back” program with drug “drop off” boxes at ALL 10 police precincts. These secure boxes are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and on holidays.

Worship Assistants Schedule - Contemporary Service

Date	Reader	Host/Usher	Refreshments
April 2, 2023 Palm Sunday	Josie Brock	Debi Maas	Susan Lilly
April 9, 2023 Easter Sunday	Kristi Kresslein	Debi Maas	—
April 16, 2023 Second Sunday of Easter	Joan Pugh	Debi Maas	Lois Jean West
April 23, 2023 Third Sunday of Easter	Jack Kerns	Debi Maas	Ann Kerns
April 30, 2023 Fourth Sunday of Easter	Kim Schultz	Debi Maas	Anne Fader

Worship Assistants Schedule - Traditional Service

Date	Reader	Communion Asst.	Host/Usher	Altar Guild
April 2, 2023 Palm Sunday	Sue DePasquale	Nancy Forno	John Musachio	Nancy Forno & Mimi DeGrafft
April 9, 2023 Easter Sunday	Sue DePasquale	Barb Dougherty	John Musachio	Barb Dougherty
April 16, 2023 Second Sunday of Easter	Kristen Mellecker	Barb Dougherty	John Musachio	Janice Hill & Penny Graf
April 23, 2023 Third Sunday of Easter	Penny Graf	Paula Kowalewski	Dave DeGrafft	Paul Kowalewski
April 30, 2023 Fourth Sunday of Easter	Ron Garman	Bonnie Murphy	Jim Fader	Kristen Mellecker

Worship Assistants Schedule - Lenten Services

Date	Reader	Communion Asst.	Host/Usher	Altar Guild
April 6, 2023 Maundy Thursday	Kristen Mellecker	Barb Dougherty	Dave Grooms	Penny Graf
April 7, 2023 Good Friday	Ron Garman & Penny Graf	—	John Musachio	—



9th Annual Memorial
Golf Outing
Friday, June 16, 2023
Pleasant Valley Golf Club
Stewartstown, PA



Shotgun tee-off 12 p.m.
followed by

19th hole meal and prizes

(Non-golfers are invited to join for \$15)

4:30 p.m. Pleasant Valley Clubhouse

Cost is \$100 per player.

Registration will begin in May.

Hope you can join us!

This event is sponsored by the Creative Fundraising Committee.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1609 Kurtz Avenue
Lutherville, MD 21093
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