



## St. Paul Lutheran Church ELCA

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# MARCH 2023

*God is faithful, and you were called by God to partnership with the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

-1 Corinthians 1:9



March is here and spring is around the corner. I delight in the snowfall of winter, but once March arrives, I yearn for warmer days. I've lived in the Midwest long enough to anticipate one more unexpected snow fall, but my heart is set on sunshine. Sometimes I need to watch out for putting all my hope into the future. I can get caught up thinking, "When it gets warmer, then everything will get better."

We can so easily fall into this future-focused thinking:

"When I graduate, then..."

"When I meet someone, then..."

"When I finish this goal, then..."

"When..., then it will be better."

Pining for the future can cause us to miss the present. We are challenged to hope in what is to come, but stay present to what is right in front of us. It is the call of the Christian life. We are called to live in an in-between time. The ashen crosses smeared on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday remind us that we are no longer captive to sin and death, but not yet living into the promise of eternal life. We are called to live in this promise of no longer, but not yet.

This year the month of March is in the heart of our Lenten journey. Throughout this month and these 40 days we are invited to refocus on how God is calling us to be present and live each day. Rev. Dr. Charlene Rachuy Cox encourages us saying, "Lent is a time amid this unfinished life in which we are

invited into experiences of reset and renewal, trusting that God is with us to help us to imagine again and anew how we live into God's call in daily life." During the next month we will explore God's call through our Sunday morning worships, Wednesday Lenten services, and spiritual practices throughout the week. I hope you can join us in-person or online and I hope you feel more connected to the Divine presence within you and around you. May we hear God's call in this present moment.

Blessings on this Lenten journey!  
Pastor Makayla

### Join us For Worship

9:00 a.m. worship to praise God.

The Livestream can be accessed by clicking [HERE](#)



**This past month** we have prayed for the following: Lori Dewey, Harold Julifs, John Ukena, Florence Pfundstein, Berta Beyer, the family and friends of Pastor Raymond Heilener.

**Please contact Sue in the church office if you have a prayer request for the congregational prayer list.**

### Church Announcements

**Wednesday Evening Bible Study**  
**Will not be held during the Lenten season**



### Thank you!

The funeral lunch committee would like to thank everyone who brought food or helped work Marcia Fields' funeral luncheon.

### Mark your calendar!

**Spring Cleaning Outdoor Workday** – Saturday, March 18 – 9:30 a.m.

Rain date – March 25

Bring rakes, gloves, etc.





**Transforming lives for over 150 years**

### LSSI Special Guests with us Sunday, March 5

St. Paul is glad to partner with Lutheran Social Services of Illinois to help serve our community. Rev. Kelly Nieman Anderson, LSSI's Manager of Church and Community Engagement and Kathy Hall, Assistance Vice President for Advancement will be joining us for worship March 5 to share how LSSI lives out the Gospel here in the Sauk Valley and throughout IL. We will have a special Coffee Chat with them after worship.

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### **Lent 2023**

There are two opportunities to join in **Lenten Midweek worship hosted jointly by St. Paul and Immanuel**. St. Paul is hosting an in-person day time service and Immanuel is hosting an evening in-person opportunity. **You are most welcome to worship with St. Paul on Wednesdays (March 1-29) at 12:15 p.m.** Lenten Lunch will be offered prior to worship. There is additional info about Lenten Lunches below. **Immanuel welcomes you to an evening prayer service at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays (March 1-29).** The content of the 12:15 & 6:30 p.m. Lenten Midweek services will be the same with Pastor Makayla, Pastor Bree and Intern Michelle leading as they are able.



Mid-day services will be live-streamed.



**Lenten Lunches:** During Wednesdays in Lent, (March 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29) St. Paul welcomes you to enjoy a light lunch. **Soup, bread, and dessert will be served at 11:30 a.m.** Mid-week worship will be from 12:15 – 12:45 p.m. and you are welcome to eat after the service as well. To-go containers will also be provided. **If you would like to join in our efforts, you can sign up to bring a crock pot of soup,**

**bread, or desert, by calling Sue at 815-625-3069 in the St. Paul Church Office.** We hope to see you there!

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### **Holy Week 2023**

**Palm/Passion Sunday** – April 2, 2023 – 9:00 a.m. worship

**Good Friday Supper Service** – April 7, 2023 – 5:30 p.m. with meal, feet washing, Holy Communion and a reading of Christ's passion.

**Easter Eve Service** – Saturday, April 8, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church in Sterling. Service includes the new fire of the Christ Candle, readings of the Salvation story, Affirmation of Baptism, and hors d'oeuvre fellowship.

**Easter Sunday** – April 9, 2023 – 9:00 a.m. worship with egg hunt to follow.

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## St. Paul Year Budget Report

2023 Budget \$265,691(\$22,141 Monthly)



### Totals through January 31, 2023

Budgeted Expenses	\$22,141
Offerings/Interest	\$19,545
Expenses	\$42,322

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**Lutheran World Relief**  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

**March 15, 2023** will be our next day for quilting. We will meet at the church from 9:00 a.m. til 12:00 p.m.

Please join us to tie the quilts and pin them. Dawn will complete by sewing the borders.

We are always in need of clean, spot-free fabric to use as quilt backs, quilt middles, and fabric for quilt blocks.

If you have questions contact Dawn Waite at 815-631-8142 or Debbie O'Brien, 815-441-0257.

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### **Coffee Fellowship**

If you would like to sign-up to celebrate a special event, the sheet is on the kiosk in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee time begins at 10:00 a.m. during the Sunday school hour.



### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

The sign up chart is on the wall by the church office. If you would like to order in memory of in honor of someone, sign-up and let Sue know if you will be ordering them yourself or if you would like her to order for you.

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**Menz Group will meet at St. John's Lutheran Church** in Sterling on **Monday, March 6 at 6:00 p.m.** This opportunity is open to all men. A hearty welcome and invitation is extended! Please contact Gerald Foskitt at 815-499-6566 with questions.



### **CLEO (Church Ladies Eating Out)**

Beginning in February, CLEO began meeting last Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at a designated restaurant. In March they will be meeting at Lisa's Brick House, 216 Locust, in Sterling. If you are unable to attend because of bad weather or personal reasons, please join us the next month. If you need a ride or have any questions, please contact Libby at 815-626-0764 or Judy Bartel at 815-751-6768. All are welcome!

## Stewardship – How God Reveals Your Heart

Every time you give, you reveal what matters to you. Look at how you spend your money and your time, and you will see what matters most to you. Your schedule might reveal that your children are what matters most to you. Your spending might reveal that what matters most to you is your hobby.



Life is not about things. It's about learning how to love. If at the end of your life you've acquired a giant pile of things but you're estranged from your family, you've missed the point!

When you are generous with your time, money, effort and energy, you're saying that God and people are what matters most. To put it another way, what matters most is love,

In Philippians 3:7, Paul tells us, *"I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done"*

How do you break the grip of materialism? There's only one way. The antidote for getting is giving. So, every time you're generous and give to others or to God, then you are actually breaking the hold of materialism in your life.

Your purpose is not to live for here and now. You're storing up for eternity! You're not building a pile on this side of eternity. You're building into people and relationships that will matter on the other side of eternity. You're living in light of heaven.

**Take a moment to pray and express your gratitude to God.**

**Give generously with a grateful heart!**

### Scripture Readings for Worship at Home

(These devotional readings may not exactly match the readings at in-person or online worship)

March 2023	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
<b>Second Sunday in Lent</b> March 5, 2023	<u>Genesis 12:1-4a</u>	<u>Psalm 121</u>	<u>Romans 4:1-5, 13-17</u>	<u>John 3:1-17</u>
<b>Third Sunday in Lent</b> March 12, 2023	<u>Exodus 17:1-7</u>	<u>Psalm 95</u>	<u>Romans 5:1-11</u>	<u>John 4:5-42</u>
<b>Fourth Sunday in Lent</b> March 19, 2023	<u>1 Samuel 16:1-13</u>	<u>Psalm 23</u>	<u>Ephesians 5:8-14</u>	<u>John 9:1-41</u>
<b>Fifth Sunday in Lent</b> March 26, 2023	<u>Ezekiel 37:1-14</u>	<u>Psalm 130</u>	<u>Romans 8:6-11</u>	<u>John 11:1-45</u>



Please keep our home visitation members and friends in your thoughts and prayers. If you would the address for anyone listed here, please contact Sue in the church office.

Lori Dewey  
Harold & Sandy Julifs  
Cliff Miller  
Burt Severson  
Gene Strike

Katherine Janssen  
Viola Koster  
Florence Pfundstein  
Gladys Stern  
John Ukena

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**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES FOR OUR CHURCH MEMBERS**

If you don't see your name on this list or there is a correction to be made, please let Sue know in the church office

2 Feona Pfundstein

5 Cliff Pfundstein

6 Dale Worley

10 Jacob Reitzel

12 Chris Engstrom

13 Scott Wolber

14 Anna Beswick

15 Kam Eilers

16 Andrew Beswick

18 Liz Spaulding

22 Lyle Spaulding

24 **Eugene Strike – 92**

Joan Jensen

25 **Florence Pfunstein – 98**

Austin Petty

26 Collin Zollinger

28 Dawn Waite

31 Sarah Wolber

**Happy 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary**

March 2, 1991

Don & Vickie Goshert

**Happy 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

March 14, 2015

Joe & Pam Machan

**Happy 47<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

March 20, 1976

Mark & Patty Arians



# Teen Time!

**Sunday Mornings after worship 10am  
Youth in grades 7-12 are invited to join  
Pastor Makayla for conversation, Bible  
Study, activities, fellowship and fun!**



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## UPCOMING EVENTS:



**6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> Graders: Join us for Tri Church Teen Time at the Duis Center on Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> from noon to 2:00 p.m.** We will be gathering during this open swim time at the Duis Center to share life and God's love together! We will also share some updates on the Abounding Love & Life Trip June 18-21! The Duis Center is located at 211 East 23rd Street in Sterling. Entry fee to swim is \$6.50. We want everyone to be able to participate—if you are in need of a sponsorship to participate please speak privately with Pastor Makayla. All 6th-12 graders are welcome! Y'all are welcome to head to a no host lunch after the education hour before we swim! Those participating will choose the location.

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## Children's Offering

**In March and April** the children's offering will support our synod partners in Tanzania and India. The offerings will be sent directly to non-profit organizations that work with the North Central Diocese of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and the Arcot Lutheran Church (ALC) in India. The Friends of Mwangaza supports education programs that tackle issues related to teaching, learning, public health, empowering women, and building community in Tanzania. Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry supports education through financially supporting students at the ALC boarding homes in India. Check out both organizations here: <https://lutheranpartners.org/what-we-do> <https://www.mwangazapartnership.org/>



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## Abounding Love & Life Trip June 18-21 for 6th-12th Graders

**Mark your calendars and make plans to join us for our Abounding Love & Life Trip June 18-21!** We will be spending a few days in Des Moines and Ankeny, IA experiencing God and sharing life together as we explore God's abounding love and life through worship, service, and adventure! The tentative schedule includes: worship, Bible study, group building, service, a day at Adventureland and possibly an Iowa Cubs game, Juneteenth Celebration and more. **The participants of this trip will help choose some of the activities.**



## Teen Time '23

Teen Time is at 10:00 a.m. after worship on Sundays. In addition we will have Tri- Church Teen Time activities throughout the year. **There will be some additions and changes to this schedule.** Please watch your email, the newsletter and the bulletin announcements for updates. *Italicized opportunities are additional items going on around the area.*

### March

*Additional Lent Opportunities this month*

- 5 10:00 a.m. Teen Time
- 12 10:00 a.m. Teen Time
- 19 10:00 a.m. Teen Time
- Tri-Church Teen Time Swimming Noon – 2:00 p.m.
- 26 10:00 a.m. Teen Time

### April

- 2 Palm Sunday—10:00 a.m. Teen Time & Youth-led worship, 8:30am walk thru
- 7 Good Friday Worship
- 7 or 8 Possible TC Teen Time**
- 9 EASTER WORSHIP!!!
- Teens help with egg hunt
- 16 10:00 a.m. Teen Time
- 23 10:00 a.m. Teen Time
- 30 10:00 a.m. Teen Time

### May

- 6 Tri Church Teen Time Fiesta**
- 7 10:00 a.m. Last Teen Time for the year
- 14 Mother's Day activity



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DON'T LET ANYONE LOOK DOWN  
ON YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE YOUNG,  
BUT SET AN EXAMPLE FOR  
THE BELIEVERS IN SPEECH,  
IN CONDUCT, IN LOVE,  
IN FAITH AND IN PURITY.

1 TIMOTHY 4:12, NIV





## Community Announcements

Northern Illinois Synod Women of the ELCA Spring Retreat will be held on Saturday, April 29 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center (LOMC) in Oregon, IL.

“Women at the Well” is the theme of the day!



The Bible study and worship will be led by Pastor Makayla Dahleen. The Bible study will address the story of the woman at the well, John 4:1-42. Bibles are optional for the participants to bring for this retreat. Covid immunizations are highly recommended.

The cost of the retreat is \$25.00. The registration fee includes coffee, snacks, lunch and materials. If you would like to apply for a half scholarship for the retreat, please complete the scholarship form and mail it to the Vice President, Ruth Anne Hartman as directed on the form located on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

**The scholarship registration deadline is March 15<sup>th</sup>. The registration form for the retreat is also located on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.** Send the registration form and check payable to NIS WELCA to Kim Choin, 7400 East Oakwood Drive, Wonder Lake, IL 60097. **The registration deadline is April 1<sup>st</sup>.**





# Teach us to pray

In Luke 11:1-13 (NIV), Jesus teaches about prayer.

*Directions: Add or subtract the letters indicated and unscramble the letters to form a new word, using hints from the passage. Then unscramble the circled letters to answer the question below.*

- party - t = p r a y (v. 1)  
 lady + i = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 3)  
 drab + e = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 5)  
 rod + o = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 7)  
 bask - b = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 9)  
 keeps - p = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 9)  
 define - ee = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 9)  
 shift - t = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 11)  
 sneaky - y = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 11)  
 sift + g = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 13)



What will the Father give to those who ask of him?

\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 13)

## TELEPHONE PRAYER SUPPORT GROUP

We welcome your prayer requests and also your praise reports:

*(Want to be a part of this? Call the church office.)*

Pastor Makayla (815) 780-9401

Janie Billings

Judy Bartel

Greg Zeigler

James 5:16 *Pray one for another.*

## DIRECTORY OF STAFF and CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Pastor Makayla Dahleen

(815) 780-9401 – [pastormakayla@stpaulsterling.com](mailto:pastormakayla@stpaulsterling.com)

Sue Dirks, Parish Secretary

(815) 535-3574 – [sue@stpaulsterling.com](mailto:sue@stpaulsterling.com)



### 2023 Congregation Council

President – Jim Gorman

Vice President – Greg Zeigler

Treasurer – Chrissy Zollinger

Secretary – Jennifer Pillars

### Christian Education/Youth

Jennifer Pillars ('24)

Stacey Avelar ('25)

### Stewardship

Greg Zeigler ('25)

### Lay Ministry & Worship

Chrissy Zollinger ('25)

Julie Woessner ('25)

### Property & Management

Dan Bartel ('24)

Jim Gorman ('25)

Chad Arians ('25)

### Social Outreach

Stacey Avelar ('25)

Jennifer Pillars ('24)

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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***LOVING – SERVING – SHARING***

**DIRECTORY OF STAFF**

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