



ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

9340 TOWNSHIP ROAD 32

JENERA, OH 45841

DEB NOLL, MINISTER

We celebrate God's love and forgiveness by living the Word and sharing the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

AMY GIBSON, YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR: PHONE: 419-348-1653

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ST. PAUL LUTHERAN WEBSITE ~ www.stpaul Lutheranjenera.org

ST. PAUL "MESSENGER" MARCH ~ 2024

*"See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up: do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." ~ Isaiah 43:19*

Dear Friends in Christ,

The text above begins, "See I am doing a new thing!" God created a perfect world, but humans sinned, and God made it rain. Through the flood, God gave the world a new start. Sin remained, so God set into action a plan for forgiveness and new birth—Jesus Christ. Jesus identified himself as "the way, and the truth, and the life". His teachings led to the "Jesus' movement" that turned the world upside down. The Apostle Paul raised up churches to inspire change in people. Martin Luther began a reformation causing major change in the Church. Others followed and new church bodies organized. New churches emerge still today. In 1982-1987 within the Lutheran Church body, the original "Commission for a New Lutheran Church" (CNLC) met. The results of the CNLC led directly to the creation of the ELCA with the merger of the American Lutheran Church (ALC) and the Lutheran Church in America (LCA).

A call for change, at the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, resulted in the establishment of a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church (CRLC). "... their work will ... examine how the church has changed in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, new systems of education, and changing culture and communities!" (NWOS News, 9/5/2023). Created to work with the Church Council and the Council of Bishops, the CRLC decided they wanted to hear from the greater church body, so to that end, they established a survey and are holding "Listening Sessions" across the ELCA. **St. Paul will host a listening session here on Thursday, March 7, at 6:30PM.** To take the survey use the following link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdFULRWoXTH7qTIRgWPPN5VV6UXiRhejngKfdkjJEIAPhdo1w/viewform?usp=sf_link

Further details concerning the constitutional language and the questions for discussion can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

Here are a few details regarding the Listening Session:

- Host congregation: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Jenera, with convener Minister Deb Noll
 - Congregations in the Northwestern Ohio Synod have been invited through NWOS News
 - Facilitator is Reverend Adam Sornchai, St. John Lutheran Church (Windfall), Cardington, Ohio, and a member of the CRLC
 - One or two members of the congregation will serve as Recorder(s)
 - The responsibility of the recorder is to record the "gist" of each comment in a way that is effective for them (handwritten/computer.)
 - **NAMES ARE NOT TO BE INCLUDED!**
 - Only a simple description of what each person says is required.
 - The session will be audio recorded solely to serve as a backup to the recorder's information for clarifying purposes.
- Revelation 21:5 ~ *The one who is seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new."*

Minister Deb

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024 – 7:00PM

Attendance: Jan Grieser, Jane Follas, Mary Coldren, Deb Clevenger, Emily Loy, Nathan Cowan, Jacob Orwick, Minister Deb Noll, Amy Gibson, Tom Marquart, Andrew Follas, Jake Leu, and Natalie McClelland.

CALL TO ORDER – Jan Grieser

Jan called the meeting to order at 6:57 pm. Minister Deb shared devotions and all recited the Council prayer. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

SPECIAL REPORT – Andrew Follas

Shortly after ordering updates and new batteries for the defibrillator, Andrew noticed an error code on the machine indicating it is now out of warranty and will no longer be supported with future updates. We can still use it and purchase a new machine when the battery dies, or we can buy a new machine now and recycle the old one. Andrew noted the price of a new machine is currently \$1,163.48, which reflects a discount of \$450. Tom Marquart moved that we purchase a new machine now. The motion was seconded by Jacob Orwick and approved by all.

FINANCIAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS – Jake Leu (see account balances attached)

- Account balances were reviewed, and Jake noted we're falling in line with our budget.
- During the month of January roughly \$700 in interest was earned on our Money Market accounts.
- A check payable to Habitat for Humanity was reissued after learning it was never received nor cashed.
- New offering envelopes have been ordered (110 count) that omit Building Fund but add Designated Fund.
- January 2024 budget versus actual was reviewed along with a list of checks written. Total income in January was \$22,991.32 vs. a budgeted \$18,852.48. Total expenses for the same period were \$30,134.22 vs. a budgeted \$21,754.85.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE – Tammy Robinson and Tammy von Stein

- A list of many previous outreach projects was reviewed.
- The committee would like to create an outdoor meditation garden, a natural space designed to connect with God and restore the mind and body. This space could also be used for outdoor weddings and/or special services. The ideal (quiet) location would be the northwest corner of the church yard, which is accessible from the sanctuary as well as the north end of the fellowship hall. The estimated cost is \$10,000–15,000 which could be offset by memorial monies. Minister Deb commented this plan goes well with The Year of Rest theme. Jan Grieser asked the committee to draft and submit plans in the near future. It was noted that using memorial monies from Clarabelle Price would be a good fit for this project since she was very fond of nature.

MINISTER'S REPORT HIGHLIGHTS – Deborah Noll (see full report attached)

- Clinical Pastoral Education Certification is complete.
- Upcoming events include Ash Wednesday worship, Souper Wednesdays, and First Communion activities.
- A Listening Session titled "Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church" is scheduled for March 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. The purpose of this event, which will include representatives from all churches in the Central Conference, is for members to share comments and/or concerns about the direction of the ELCA. Minutes of the meeting will be recorded. A survey link will be sent to members for their input, and notice of the event will be published in the NOTF and March newsletter.
- I will be leading worship at Serenity Springs (formerly Good Samaritan) on Sunday, Feb. 18 at 2 p.m.
- Vacation Sundays are requested on April 21, 28, and Aug. 4.

TRUSTEES REPORT – Tom Marquart

- The overhead door on the storage barn has been installed.
- A dead tree was removed south of the pavilion. Another tree near the main church sign is looking bad, so it will either be trimmed or taken down. A tree trimmer will be stopping by to advise. Pete Wilson has offered to help if the tree is to be taken down.
- Furnace repair in the ceiling above the library is complete.
- The Trustees are considering shelving options (steel, wood, or both) for storage in the attic. Bart Welte offered to build wooden shelves if needed.
- The church bell has been repaired and is ready for sandblasting. The cornerstone from the previous church building will be incorporated in a new bell structure.
- A new church road sign has been posted at the corner of US 68 and Waterloo Dr.
- It was suggested by a Council member that the temperature in the east wing be lowered.
- It was also suggested that water pipes under the kitchen sink be wrapped to prevent freezing in the winter.

YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR REPORT – Amy Gibson

- The Flapjacks & Flannel lunch raised more than \$450.
- Recent events enjoyed by youth included Winter Jam and Snow Trails.
- A lock-in will be held beginning this Sunday evening.
- Soup suppers begin next week, and it's getting more difficult to find youth available to help due to small class sizes and school sporting events. Beginning in 2025, we're considering asking other church organizations to assist in hosting instead of youth hosting every Wednesday during Lent. It was suggested that a signup sheet could also be posted for individual volunteers.
- I'm in the process of a continuing education course on imaginative prayer and prayer stations.
- Regarding the church directory, I've been updating names, addresses, phone numbers, etc. In addition to print directories, there is also an option (Instant Church Directory) to purchase an app so members have this information on their mobile phones. The cost of the app is \$99.80/year in addition to print copies. Deb Clevenger moved that we purchase this app. The motion was seconded by Natalie McClelland and approved.
- Minister Deb inquired about annual updates to a print directory without photos like other churches publish. It was suggested we put a form in the newsletter and/or NOTF for all members to update annually.
- Discussion was held on how to determine active and inactive members in the directory, and how to reach youth who are inactive? Be intentional!

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT – Tammy von Stein

- The Outreach bedding drive was a success; approximately 56 bedding items ranging from sheets to mattress pads, pillows and blankets were donated and delivered to the Christian Clearing House. Personnel from CCH reported the items were donated quickly and they were very appreciative.
- February's project to collect food items for the Good Hope Food Pantry is underway and items will be delivered first part of March. This project directly helps feed hungry neighbors in our community.

PARISH EDUCATION – Emily Clark

- Gift cards were purchased with 2023 mission money collected every third Sunday throughout the year. One card was given to Ellie Fletcher, a student from Riverdale who was recently diagnosed with Lupus and will need a kidney transplant. The other card was given to Connor Sons, a student at Cory Rawson who is recovering from surgery following the removal of a brain tumor.
- Kids Praise is done for the season, but there will be activities for children during Wednesday Lenten services.
- Family Movie Night will be held on Feb. 18, and I encourage any member to attend and observe this event.
- The annual Easter egg hunt is scheduled for Mar. 23, which is the Saturday before Palm Sunday.

- “Pandamania” VBS is scheduled for July 14–18; a float will be decorated for the Arlington festival parade to be held the following weekend.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Regarding the automatic entrance door, we’re still waiting for electrical completion. The technician was sick with RSV and is behind schedule.
- The annual Church Cleaning Committee list has been updated and needs to be published.

NEW BUSINESS

- In order to have more time at meetings to brainstorm new ideas, beginning in March the Chair would like all reports given to the church secretary in advance for inclusion in the Council agenda. This includes the Trustees, Outreach Committee, Minister Deb, Amy Gibson, and Parish Board.
- The church copy machine lease is up for renewal. Proposals were received from MT Business and Perry Pro Tech. Following discussion, Perry Pro Tech was selected.
- New, updated church brochures have been designed by Chelsea Boehm.

ADJOURN

- The meeting adjourned with The Lord’s Prayer at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 12 at 7 p.m.

Natalie McClelland, Recording Secretary

DETAILED REPORT OF:

Account Balances at January 31, 2024

Checking

Current	181,346.08
Building	0.00
Improvement	349.96
Missions	1,535.18
Special Projects	
Shipwreck Festival	2,199.28
Music	2,324.81
C. Price Memorial Funds	26,596.60
Bell choir	1,724.98
Special Projects Other	0.06
	<u>32,845.73</u>

Total Quickbooks Operating/MMDA 216,076.95

Operating Account	43,354.55
Money Market Demand Account (MMDA)	<u>176,638.12</u>
Total Operating/MMDA – Bank	219,992.67

Outstanding Deposits at 1/31/24	
Outstanding Checks at 1/31/24	<u>-3,915.72</u>
Total Reconciled Operating/MMDA	216,076.95

Savings

General Memorial	14,263.51
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St. Paul Congregational Council
February 13, 2024
Synod Authorized Minister's Report

Word for Thought:

For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 2 Corinthians 4:5

Tomorrow is Ash Wednesday. With the placing of ashes on our foreheads, we will be reminded of our own mortality. The ashes, may seem to some as if we are drawing attention to ourselves, displaying our faith in that manner. The ash–smudge cross gives perfect opportunity to tell others of the gift of Jesus Christ crucified and risen. When people stop to stare, a simple reply may be: “I am a child of God, loved and saved by the precious blood of Jesus Christ.”

The words, “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return” not only remind us that our lives are limited on this earth, but they lead us to the Cross where Jesus died, and to the tomb where his body was laid. During the forty days of Lent, we walk with Jesus as he heads for the cross.

Thank you, Jesus. Amen.

Activity Since the January Council Meeting:

Worship, Church Functions, Member Contact Outside of Worship

- Worship Services (x12)
- Parish Board (x2)
- Worship Committee (x1)
- Outreach Team (x1)
- Staff Meeting (x1)
- Choir (x3)
- Kids Praise (x5)
- Confirmation (x3)
- Sewing Meal (x2)
- Women of the ELCA (x1)
- Dartball (x4)
- “The Jokers” Card Group (x5)
- In-Office Visitations (x4)
- In-home Visitations (x4)
- Nursing Care Facility Visits (x2) (Serenity Springs and The Manor at Greendale)
- Hospital Visitations (x7)
- Lee Best Funeral
- Homebound Communion (x3)
- Epiphany Open House @ the Parsonage (x1)
- 33 Care Cards sent

Related Church Activities

- Text Study Zoom (x3)
- Central Conference Ministerial Group (x1)
- SAM Cohort Zoom Session (x1)
- SAM Supervisor Session (x2)

Continuing Education

- Clinical Pastoral Education Certification is Complete

CRLC Listening Event Status and Needs

- Commission on a Renewed Lutheran Church (CRLC)
 - Date: Thursday, March 7 at 6:30PM (waiting on confirmation from Pastor Adam Sornchai)
 - What it entails:
 - **Planner/Convener**
 - ✓ Choose a place, date, and time (50–90 minutes depending on group size) for a Listening Event.
 - ✓ Arrange for a *commission member to be present as facilitator*. Send an email to Jodi.Slattery@elca.org so support staff can track all Listening Events.
 - ✓ It also is important to alert your synod office to any event occurring on its territory. Publicize the event and, if possible, get your Listening Event advertised on the synod website, calendar, and in the newsletter. (Synods should be made aware of any event but Listening Events do not require synod resources of time and finance unless that is a synod staff preference.)
 - **Facilitator**
 - ✓ Welcome participants, introduce yourself, provide for introductions as appropriate, and arrange to begin with prayer. Briefly describe the purpose of the event and the CRLC process.
 - ✓ Ask the (To be determined) questions for the event:
 - ✓ Then conduct the conversation so that it stays on track. This is not a place for debate, each participant simply shares their thoughts, comments are recorded, and facilitators listen.
 - ✓ Small groups may proceed conversationally; large groups require formal arrangements that are agreed to in advance, such as a two–minute comment time limit.
 - ✓ At the close, express gratitude for participants' comments and conclude with prayer. Also remind participants that updated information is available on the web site at www.ELCA.org/CRLC.
 - **Recorder(s)**
 - ✓ Record the gist of each comment, in whatever way is effective for you. **DO NOT INCLUDE NAMES.**
 - ✓ Do not include your assessment; simply provide a description of what each person says. If more than one speaker reiterates an idea, you can save time by marking the idea with a hash mark.
- **Survey** – The CRLC has produced a survey that individuals can fill out to make their concerns known. The link to the survey is:

[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdFULRWoXTH7qTIRgWPPN5VV6UXiRhejngKfdkjJEIAPhdolw/viewform?usp=sf_link__;!!KGKeukY!wcGnulfk6F1khTcIgRqQmsMkkolDnylVdegCWMywiZssUKTc8YsScGo0rcHsi2hnLU5Yx4kLVsCnOqZAA9BBnMew92Wb\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdFULRWoXTH7qTIRgWPPN5VV6UXiRhejngKfdkjJEIAPhdolw/viewform?usp=sf_link__;!!KGKeukY!wcGnulfk6F1khTcIgRqQmsMkkolDnylVdegCWMywiZssUKTc8YsScGo0rcHsi2hnLU5Yx4kLVsCnOqZAA9BBnMew92Wb$)

Upcoming Events

- **LENT**
 - Ash Wednesday February 14, 2024
 - 5:45 Bible Study
 - 7:00 Worship with Disposition of Ashes and Holy Communion
 - Souper Wednesdays
 - 5:00 Bible Study (BS)
 - 6:00 Soup Supper (SS)

- 7:00 Worship Service (WS)
- 6:30-7:30 Kids Praise (KP)
- First Communion
 - Five Youth – Kolt Robinson, Holly Saum, Annie Swanner, Mason Leu, Garrett Smith
 - “A Place for You” Learning Retreat – March 16, 2024, 9AM to NOON
 - Recognition and Welcoming to the Table – Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024 (9AM Service)
- **Lead Worship at Serenity Springs** (Previously Good Samaritan) Sunday, February 18, 2024, 2PM

Vacation Requests

- April 15–28, 2024 (Includes 2 Sundays: April 21 and April 28)
- August 1–4, 2024 (includes 1 Sunday: August 4)
- Other to be determined

Respectfully Submitted,
 Deb Noll, Synod Authorized Minister

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR MARCH 2024

SENIOR CHOIR DIRECTOR: Lisa Gossman
PRAISE TEAM DIRECTOR: Jan Grieser
HANDBELL CHOIR DIRECTOR: Tammy Robinson
AUDIO VIDEO: Jacob Orwick and Marty Grieser
ALTAR GUILD: Uncover: Marjorie Reichley / Cover: Vera Sheets
LECTOR: Jane Follas
WEBSITE COORDINATOR: Chelsea Boehm

PRAYER CHAIN CONTACTS

Nadine Boehm — nadineb@thewavz.com or 419–722–6370
 Pam Hoffman — pkhoffman87@gmail.com or 419–358–1682

HOSPITAL STAYS

It is important to the church that we support you through illness and hospitalizations. If you are admitted to Blanchard Valley Hospital for an overnight stay we would like to know.

If you are planning an admission to any hospital, please call the church office at 419–326–3535 to let us know the date you are entering and how long you anticipate staying.

At admission to BVH, *planned or unplanned*, you (or your spokesperson) will be asked several questions,

1. Religion: this may be asked at pre–registration or at admission along with your address, phone number, etc. Please give our denomination.
2. If you wish to be on the Hospital Directory and the Religion List. These questions will be asked of you (or your spokesperson) during the “Consent to Treatment” process. Please answer “yes” to both.

In order to protect your privacy the hospital does not routinely call the church to tell us you have been admitted, unless you specifically ask them to call us. We depend on you or your family to let us know if you have been admitted.

If you have been in the hospital for a day or two and have not been visited, please ask your family or nurse to contact the church office.

A new federal law greatly restricts the disclosure of patient information by hospitals. As a result, the pastors and church office may not know that a member of the church has been admitted to the hospital. If you are hospitalized and would like to notify the pastor, it is important that you or a member of your family inform the church office as soon as possible at 419–326–3535 and the secretary will contact the pastor.

PERSONS ST. PAUL HAS PRAYED FOR DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2024: Brad Brickman (*friend of Marcia Russell*); Jon Gast; Norm Hahn; Mark Hoffman (*Mike's brother*); Fred Husing (*Cheryl Lentz's father*); Mike Inbody; Daryl Ingram (*Mike's brother*); Kyle McDowell; MaryEllen Nesler; Faye Parcher (*Beth Wilhelm's mother*); Wayne Pepple (*father of Jan Grieser and Jeff Pepple*); John Schumacker (*son of a friend of Jill Bower*); Randy Snyder (*brother-in-law of Lee Laird*); Connor Sons (*C-R junior recovering from brain surgery*); family and friends of Andrew Wolford; all military personnel including — Griffin Hartman, Lance Leisure, Evan McMonigal, Justin Riegler, Nate Sheets, Colin and Annabelle Tobin, and Alex vonStein — Songambebe Lutheran Church; Navajo Lutheran Mission School, Rock Point, AZ; Hancock County Religious Education; and Mission Possible for Haiti.

Thank You ~ Thank You ~ Thank You ~ ~

Thank you to the members who volunteered to help with the Saturday League Dartball Tournament which was held on Saturday, February 17th. Your help was greatly appreciated. *Linda Wilson*

Dear St. Paul Giving Family, Thank you so much for the generous donations of money, food, cookies, snacks, and punch for Kids Praise. Thank you to the teachers, helpers, and kitchen staff who were there each week to teach and feed those in attendance.

Thank you for the cards, prayers, personal messages, and memorial contributions for the passing of our son, Andrew. Everything was so very much appreciated. *The David Wolford Family*

Our Christian Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Andrew Peter Wolford. Andrew, 36, passed away on Sunday, February 4th. His funeral was held at Crates Funeral Home on Saturday, February 24th with Pastor Steve Edmiston officiating. May the family and friends of Andrew feel God holding them close and fill them with resurrection hope.

MISSING: Our extra fair linen for the altar is missing. Please let Mary Coldren know if anyone finds it or took it home to launder.





ReFUEL INFORMATION FOR MARCH

Sunday, March 3 rd	ReFUEL — 6:00PM – 8:00PM
Wednesday, March 6 th	Soup Supper 6:00PM
Wednesday, March 13 th	Soup Supper 6:00PM
Sunday, March 17 th	ReFUEL — 6:00PM – 8:00PM
Wednesday, March 20 th	Soup Supper 6:00PM
	[Soup Supper provided by WELCA]
Saturday, March 24 th	Easter Extravaganza 6:00PM – 9:00PM

* **ANYONE** — **Do you have a talent for interior design?** LYO is looking to update the youth room. From paint to storage! If you have ideas we would like to hear from you! **If interested in this challenge, contact Amy.**

—
Parish Board: Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 23rd at 3:00PM
Lenten Kids Praise themed “Alive” on Wednesdays through Lent — 6:30PM – 7:30PM
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CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

Sunday, March 3 rd	5:00PM – 6:00PM
Sunday, March 10 th	5:00PM – 6:00PM
Sunday, March 17 th	5:00PM – 6:00PM
Sunday, March 24 th	5:00PM – 6:00PM
Sunday, March 31 st	<u>NO CONFIRMATION</u>

Cleaning Committee #3 — Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, and Conference Room — cleaning is scheduled for Friday, March 8th beginning at 5:00PM. Roger Rettig, Chairperson – Marcia Russell, Vice Chairperson

Cleaning Committee #4 — Welcome Space / Offices / Nursery / Restrooms — cleaning is scheduled for Friday, March 8th beginning at 5:30PM and Saturday, March 9th from 9:00AM – NOON. Keith Robinson, Chairperson – Ryan Robinson, Vice Chairperson

Cleaning Committee #1 — Worship Space / Sacristy — cleaning is scheduled for Monday, March 18th beginning at 5:00PM. Mark Bower, chairperson – Chad Parke, Vice Chairperson

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS SPONSORED BY: ST. PAUL LYO
THE PROCEEDS FROM THIS EASTER FLOWER
SALE WILL GO TOWARDS: St. Paul Youth Projects

Offered will be a 12–inch pansy bowl (and/or) a 6½ inch pot of tulips in Easter colors at a cost of \$13.00 per plant.

[People who have ordered Easter flowers may pick them up after the Easter Worship Service, March 31st]
Order forms are available on the Information Counter in the Welcome Space. Fill in the order form and return to the church office or leave the order form and money in the basket provided on the Information Counter in the Welcome Space. Payment must accompany orders and checks need to be made payable to:

St. Paul Lutheran LYO.

Deadline for placing orders will be SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024

The March Sewing Days will be on Tuesday, March 12th and Wednesday, March 27th from 9:00AM – 2:00PM. Come all of the time or part of the time. We assemble quilts for Lutheran World Relief. If you can tie a knot, use scissors or pin material together, we’d love your help with this important ministry! Please bring a dish to share for lunch.



The Bible Study Group meets each Thursday morning in the Library at 9:30AM and are studying Proverbs. All are welcome.

St. Paul Outreach Committee Focus Statement for 2024

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” Galatians 6:9–10

The St. Paul Outreach Committee will be using this Bible verse in 2024 to focus our efforts on needs closer to home. As a body of believers in Jesus we want to come alongside people in our community who are in need. That way we can do what Paul calls “carrying each other’s burdens.” (Galatians 6:2) Relying on God’s strength, we listen, we empathize, we help where we can, and we can also pray for them. We can look for ways to “do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” Paul says that when we do so, we fulfill the law of Christ: to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves. The burdens of life can be heavy, but praise God, he’s given us our church family to lighten the load. If you know of a “neighbor” who could use some help, please let us know and we’ll prayerfully consider what we as a church family can do to help.

St. Paul's 2024 Lenten Schedule

[The Bible Study will be held in the Library.]

March 6, 2024, Third Wednesday of Lent

- 5:00pm — *A Time to Rest* Bible Study: *At Jesus' Feet (Creative Rest)*
- 6:00pm — Soup Supper
- 7:00pm — Kid's Praise
- 7:00pm — Worship, meditation on "Just as I Am" (God's forgiveness)

March 13, 2024, Fourth Wednesday of Lent

- 5:00pm — *A Time to Rest* Bible Study: *Authenticity, Accountability, and Acknowledging Truth (Emotional Rest)*
- 6:00pm — Soup Supper
- 7:00pm — Kid's Praise
- 7:00pm — Worship, meditation on "Be Thou My Vision" (Presence, Light, and Vision)

March 20, 2024, Fifth Wednesday of Lent

- 5:00pm — *A Time to Rest* Bible Study: *God All Around Us (Sensory Rest)*
- 6:00pm — Soup Supper
- 7:00pm — Kid's Praise
- 7:00pm — Worship, meditation on "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" (Beauty of God's Faithfulness)

HOLY WEEK – March 24 to March 30

- **Palm Sunday** — First Communion is celebrated, **Maundy Thursday** — 7:00pm Worship, **Good Friday** — 1pm — Worship, 5:45pm — *A Time to Rest* Bible Study: *Come to a Quiet Place (Mental Rest)*, 7pm — Worship

2024: THE YEAR OF REST: The churches and friends of Northwestern Ohio Synod are invited to participate in the Year of Rest. Instead of the traditional daily Bible readings, we are invited to engage in daily rest practices using the seven types of active rest: Mental, Sensory, Emotional, Social, Creative, Spiritual, and Physical. Grounded in a weekly Bible verse, it is the Synod's prayer that the guided calendar will help us discover daily moments of rest and peace. To learn more about the Year of Rest and the Seven Types of Active Rest, go to the Northwestern Ohio Synod website: <https://nwos-elca.church> scroll down to Bishop's Writings and click on: 2024: The Year of Rest.

[There are copies of the March 2024—"The Year of Rest" on the Information Counter in the Welcome Space.]

LISTENING SESSION: COMMISSION FOR A RENEWED LUTHERAN CHURCH

2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Action [CA22.01.06]

To direct the Church Council to establish a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church comprised of leaders of diverse representation from all three expressions that, working in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council, shall reconsider the statements of purpose for each of the expressions of this church, the principles of its organizational structure, and all matters pertaining thereunto, being particularly attentive to our shared commitment to dismantle racism, and will present its findings and recommendations to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in preparation for a possible reconstituting convention to be called under the rules for a special meeting of the Churchwide Assembly.

ELCA Constitution: The Three Expressions of the Church (Chapter 1.01.01)

The name, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, as used herein, refers, in general, to this whole church, including its **three expressions: congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization.**

Relationship of the Three Expressions (Chapter 8:10 – 8:14)

This church shall seek to function as people of God through **congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization**, all of which shall be **interdependent**. Each part, while fully the church, recognizes that it is not the whole church and therefore lives in an interdependent relationship with the others.

ELCA Statement of Purpose (Chapter 4)

The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world. To participate in God's mission, this church shall:

- a. **Proclaim** God's saving Gospel of justification by grace for Christ's sake through faith alone, according to the apostolic witness in the Holy Scripture, preserving and transmitting the Gospel faithfully to future generations.
- b. **Carry out Christ's Great Commission** by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ and by doing all ministry with a global awareness consistent with the understanding of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all.
- c. **Serve in response** to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations, and standing in solidarity with the poor and oppressed and committing itself to their needs.
- d. **Worship God** in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service.
- e. **Nurture** its members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling, and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world.
- f. **Manifest the unity** given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives.

Purposes of the Churchwide Organization (Chapter 11.21)

In fulfillment of the purposes of this church, the churchwide organization shall:

- a. **Undergird the worship life** of this church as the Word of God is preached and the sacraments are administered.
- b. **Provide resources** to equip members to **worship, learn, serve, and witness** in their ministry in daily life.
- c. **Support and establish policy** for this church's mission and coordinate planning and evaluation for that mission throughout the world, including participation with other churches.
- d. **Witness to the Word of God** in Christ by united efforts in proclaiming the Gospel, responding to human need, caring for the sick and suffering, working for justice and peace, and providing guidance to members on social matters.
- e. **Foster interdependent relationships** among congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization to implement the mission of this whole church.
- f. **Provide for the rostered ministries** for this church.
- g. **Oversee and establish policy** for this church's relationship to **seminaries, colleges, universities, schools,** and other education endeavors, and provide support as appropriate.
- h. **Establish and reflect this church's ecumenical stance** and its relationship to other churches, and direct this church's policy for relationship with persons of other faiths.
- i. **Develop and administer policies for this church's relationship to social ministry organizations** and cooperate with public and private agencies that enhance human dignity and justice
- j. **Determine and implement policy for this church's relationship to governments.**

- k. **Provide for a comprehensive financial support system** for this church's mission and for the administration of financial resources necessary for fulfillment of the particular responsibilities of the churchwide organization.
- l. **Provide planned giving opportunities for the financial support** of this church, its congregations, synods, agencies, and institutions through the establishment of a foundation.
- m. **Provide pension and other benefits** plans for this church.
- n. **Provide a church publishing house.**
- o. **Provide archives for the retention of its valuable records**, and coordinate archival activity in the synods, regions, institutions, and agencies of this church.
- p. **Provide and monitor a system of discipline**, appeals, and adjudication.
- q. **Establish and operate other programs and activities**, as determined by this church, on behalf of and in support of the congregations and synods of this church.

Synod: Statement of Purpose (Chapter 10.21)

Each synod, in cooperation with the churchwide organization, shall bear **primary responsibility for the oversight of the life and mission of this church in its territory**. In fulfillment of this role and consistent with policies and procedures of this church, the synod shall:

- a. Provide for **pastoral care of congregations and rostered ministers** in the synod;
- b. **Plan for, facilitate, and nurture the mission** of this church through congregations;
- c. **Strengthen interdependent relationships** among congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, and foster relationships with agencies and institutions affiliated with or related to this church as well as ecumenical partners; and
- d. **Interpret the work of this church to congregations and to the public** on the territory of the synod.

Congregations: Function (Chapter 9.41).

The congregation shall:

- a. **Provide services of worship** at which the Word of God is preached and the sacraments are administered.
- b. **Provide pastoral care** and assist all members to participate in this ministry.
- c. **Challenge, equip, and support all members** in carrying out their calling in their daily life and in their congregation.
- d. **Teach the Word of God.**
- e. **Witness to the reconciling Word of God in Christ**, reaching out to all people.
- f. **Respond to human need**, work for justice and peace, care for the sick and the suffering, and participate responsibly in society.
- g. **Motivate its members to provide financial support** for the congregation's ministry and the ministry of the synod and the churchwide organization.
- h. **Foster and participate in interdependent relationships** with other congregations, the synod, and the churchwide organization.
- i. **Foster and participate in ecumenical relationships** consistent with churchwide policy.

Questions for Discussion:

1. What do you see as the strengths and weaknesses of the current constitutional language?
2. What does a renewed Church look like to you? What are your hopes for the ELCA?
3. Based on our discussion, which elements of the Statement of Purpose do you believe are vital to the ELCA and which do you believe should be modified?
4. Are there ways in which the ELCA could be better structured to support the three expressions of the Church for the sake of the gospel in the world?
5. Describe a time or situation where the current structure/power configurations of the ELCA supported the flourishing of the gospel in your context and then another time or situation when it was inhibited.

Contact Information: <https://elca.org/crlc>



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, MARCH 24TH — PALM SUNDAY — 9:00AM service and 11:15AM service with distribution of palm branches and Holy Communion

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27TH — “TO THE CROSS WITH CHRIST” — 6:00PM – 7:30PM

Join Minister Deb and Amy for an evening of learning about a Passover Meal, Engage in Washing of Feet, and sharing the burden of Carrying the Cross

THURSDAY, MARCH 28TH — MAUNDY THURSDAY service at 7:00PM with Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar

FRIDAY, MARCH 29TH — GOOD FRIDAY services at 1:00PM and 7:00PM BIBLE STUDY / LIBRARY — 5:45PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 31ST — EASTER SUNDAY — one service at 10:00AM with Holy Communion

**** EASTER BREAKFAST — 8:30AM — bring your favorite breakfast dish to share**

On GOOD FRIDAY, March 29th, Good Hope Lutheran Church plans to again host the annual Community Crosswalk. As in years past, participants will walk through the village of Arlington, taking turns carrying a large wooden cross, and stopping at several points along the way for Scripture and song. No offering will be collected. The event will be held rain or shine (or snow or sleet!), and does involve walking a couple miles through town. We begin at 12 NOON on the east side of Good Hope’s building, 300 South Main in Arlington, and will end up back where we began no later than 1:00PM.

2024 Annual Benefit Garage Sale Treasure Hunt For A Cause

Saturday, March 16th from 8:30AM – 4:00PM

Sunday, March 17th from 1:00PM – 4:00PM

Brinkman’s Greenhouse, 1800 East Sandusky Street, Findlay, Ohio 45840

Donations will be accepted Monday, February 19th until Saturday, March 9th.

Monday – Friday — 9:00AM until 4:00PM and Saturday — 9:00AM until 1:00PM

Donations must be in good repair.

We are unable to accept pianos, tubed tv’s, entertainment centers, adult clothing or encyclopedias.

[CCH will provide limited pickup of larger items as long as the items are on the ground floor and sellable condition.]

Call the office at 419-422-2222 for details.

CHURCH CLEANING ~ 2024

Our aim is to give our church a **general cleaning** once a year. It is a big task, and each of us should feel the responsibility to help in some way, if possible. There has been a good response on the part of many in the way we have done this cleaning for many, many years. The same cleaning groups are kept, but the chairmanship is rotated. **This list names the chairperson for 2024, and the vice chairperson who will be chairperson in 2025.** If for any reason you will not serve, please notify the chairperson of your committee. If you wish to trade places with someone on another committee, you may, but please notify the chairperson of the committees involved.

There is no rule about when the work should be completed, but we aim for completion by Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024. Chairpersons should co-ordinate their committee's schedule of work with the custodians, who are the general chairperson of all the committees. The work plan may be announced in the Sunday bulletin, or personally to the members of the cleaning committees involved. **Please be sure to notify the church secretary, Jane Wilch, (419-326-3535) when you decide which day or evening that you will be working, so that conflicts with other church meetings can be avoided.** Major cleaning supplies will be furnished. The chairperson or committees may turn in to the trustees any suggestions that they, or any of their committee, think good to consider. Please check with the custodians before any major cleaning of carpets are done.

THE FOUR AREA COMMITTEES AND THE CHAIRPEOPLE

#1 Worship Space / Sacristy

Mark Bower, CHP. [* Cleaning on
Chad Parke, VCHP. **Monday, March 18th**
beginning at 5:00PM]
Pete Wilson
Christine Kemerley
Larry Parke
Linda Isenbarger
Doug Coldren (drums)
Sean Tobin
Craig Durliat
Jerry Kimmel
James Kemerley
Merritt VonStein
Scott McDowell
Heather Walters
Beth Bell
Andrew Follas
Mike Ingram
Lisa Gossman
Amy Krantz
Ron McDowell
Tom Boehm
Mike Hoffman
Dave Wolford
Emil Nagel
Nathan Cowan
Darwin Wilson
Beth Wilhelm
Marty Grieser

#2 Education Wing

Kreg Sheets, CHP.
Jake Leu, VCHP.
Ryan Riegle
Allen Boehm
Ryan Leisure
Joe Loy
Jane Follas
Dustin Price
Steve Clark
Gary Wilson
Justin Gillespie
Britt Gibson
Tom Valentage
Mike Orwick
Sonja Eversole
Rachel Hartman
RuthAnn Bower
Ron Riegle

#3 Fellowship Hall / Kitchen /

Conference Room [* Cleaning on
Friday, March 8th
beginning at 5:00PM]

Roger Rettig, CHP.
Marcia Russell, VCHP.
Jill Bower
Ruth Lamberjack
Dan Settlege
Bob Coldren
Lynn Boehm
Vera Sheets
Steve McClelland
Doug Coldren
Marjorie Reichley
Bart Welte
Ed vonStein
Kay Sidle
Steve Reichley
Keith Bower
Nancy Smith
John Wilson
Mike Lentz
Nate Sheets

#4 Welcome Space / Offices / Nursery /

Restrooms [* Cleaning on
Friday, March 8th
beginning at 5:30PM
and Saturday,
March 9th from
9:00AM – NOON]

Keith Robinson, CHP.
Ryan Robinson, VCHP.
Tom Marquart
Derek Kerner
Melissa Kroske
John Rettig
Lauren Etler
Carlie vonStein
Jon Gast
Tom Carey
Paul Hartman
Dan Ludwig
Willis Marquart
James Marshall
Gerald Rettig
Kendra Rodriguez
Jan Grieser
Lee Laird
Amber Hirt
Deb Best
Joe Creque
Jeff Pepple
Aaron Smith
Phyllis Rettig

You are ALL very much needed!

**If your name has been overlooked, please call the church office
— 419-326-3535.**

Mistakes can be made with this many names!

March 2024 Birthdays

Friday, March 1st Roger Rettig
 Sunday, March 3rd Reis Steinmetz
 Monday, March 4th Amanda Leu
 Tuesday, March 5th Mike Inbody
 Tuesday, March 5th Evan Shank
 Wednesday, March 6th Sean Tobin
 Thursday, March 7th Greg Hartman
 Thursday, March 7th Raigan Smith
 Friday, March 8th Kieran Price
 Friday, March 8th Kollins Robinson
 Saturday, March 9th Loretta Bower
 Saturday, March 9th Jameson Krantz
 Monday, March 11th Dylen Hartman
 Monday, March 11th Tom Marquart
 Thursday, March 14th Justin Gillespie
 Thursday, March 14th Lisa Gossman
 Thursday, March 14th Austin Grieser
 Thursday, March 14th Linda Wilson
 Friday, March 15th Sydney King
 Friday, March 15th Bill Marquart
 Saturday, March 16th Zachery Grieser
 Saturday, March 16th Mary M. Wilson
 Sunday, March 17th Lindsay Boehm
 Sunday, March 17th Gerald Inbody
 Monday, March 18th Darwin Wilson
 Tuesday, March 19th Michael Bower
 Tuesday, March 19th Cameron Settlage
 Tuesday, March 19th Norah Welly
 Wednesday, March 20th Morgan Smith
 Wednesday, March 20th Peyton Smith
 Friday, March 22nd Tim Bower
 Saturday, March 23rd Emilee Bower
 Saturday, March 23rd Melody McCloud
 Saturday, March 23rd Nathan Norway
 Saturday, March 23rd Abigail Proctor
 Sunday, March 24th Tina Cowan
 Sunday, March 24th Connor Rader
 Sunday, March 24th Ruth Tobin
 Sunday, March 24th Ed vonStein
 Sunday, March 24th Bethanee Yost
 Monday, March 25th Matthew Bower
 Monday, March 25th Nick Luke
 Wednesday, March 27th Ben Grieser
 Wednesday, March 27th Cody Light
 Wednesday, March 27th John Wilson

Friday, March 29th
 Friday, March 29th
 Sunday, March 31st
 Sunday, March 31st

Steve McClelland
 Dru Sidle
 Emily Depuy
 Joel Fitzgerald



March 2024 Anniversaries

Tuesday, March 12th Van and Jane Follas – 48
 Friday, March 15th Joe and Toni Loy – 44
 Monday, March 25th James and Jessica Kemerley – 18
 Tuesday, March 26th Josh and Olivia Homera – 2



Wedding Anniversaries

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ MARCH 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT 9:00AM Traditional Worship / Communion 10:15AM Sunday School 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion 12:15PM – 3:00PM Fellowship Hall reserved by Jake Leu 5:00PM – 6:00PM Confirmation Class 6:00PM – 8:00PM ReFUEL	4	5 7:00PM Worship Committee Meeting 7:30PM Youth Board Meeting	6 5:00PM Bible Study / Library 6:00PM Soup Supper 7:00PM Lenten Worship Service 8:00PM Senior Choir Practice	7 9:30AM Bible Study / Library 6:30PM – 8:00PM CRLC Listening Session	8 5:00PM #3 Cleaning Committee — Fellowship Hall / Kitchen / Conference Room 5:30PM #4 Cleaning Committee — Welcome Space / Offices / Nursery / Restrooms	9 9:00AM – NOON #4 Cleaning Committee — Welcome Space / Offices / Nursery / Restrooms
10 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS DEADLINE FOR EASTER FLOWER ORDERS 9:00AM Traditional Worship / Communion 10:15AM Sunday School 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion 3:00PM Rock N Roll 4–H Meeting / Fellowship Hall 5:00PM – 6:00PM Confirmation Class	11	12 9:00AM – 2:00PM Sewing Day 7:00PM Congregational Council Meeting	13 5:00PM Bible Study / Library 6:00PM Soup Supper 7:00PM Lenten Worship Service 8:00PM Senior Choir Practice	14 9:30AM Bible Study / Library 6:00PM Sunday School Room reserved by “The Jokers”	15	16 9:00AM – NOON First Communion Workshop
17 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT 9:00AM Traditional Worship 10:15AM Sunday School 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion 5:00PM – 6:00PM Confirmation Class 6:00PM – 8:00PM ReFUEL	18 5:00PM #1 Cleaning Committee — Worship Space / Sacristy	19 7:00PM WELCA Meeting	20 5:00PM Bible Study / Library 6:00PM Soup Supper [Provided by WELCA] 7:00PM Lenten Worship Service 8:00PM Senior Choir Practice	21 9:30AM Bible Study / Library 6:00PM Sunday School Room reserved by “The Jokers”	22	23 3:00PM Easter Egg Hunt
24 PALM SUNDAY FIRST COMMUNION 9:00AM Traditional Worship / Communion 10:15AM Sunday School 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion 5:00PM – 6:00PM Confirmation Class 6:00PM – 9:00PM YOUTH / Easter Extravaganza	25	26	27 9:00AM – 2:00PM Sewing Day 6:00PM – 7:30PM “To The Cross with Christ — led by Minister Deb and Amy	28 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00PM Worship Service / Holy Communion / Stripping of the Altar	29 GOOD FRIDAY 1:00PM Good Friday Service 5:45PM Bible Study / Library 7:00PM Good Friday Service	30
31 RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD EASTER DAY 8:30AM Easter Breakfast 10:00AM Easter Worship Service / Holy Communion <u>NQ</u> Confirmation Class	Altar Guild: Uncover — Marjorie Reichley — Cover — Vera Sheets Lector: Jane Follas Organists: Sunday, March 3 rd – Janet Carey Wednesday, March 6 th — Sunday, March 10 th — Wednesday, March 13 th — Sunday, March 17 th — Wednesday, March 20 th — Sunday, March 24 th — Maundy Thursday, March 28 th — Good Friday, March 29 th — Sunday, March 31 st : Lisa Gossman					