

St. Paul's Epistle

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Box 726, Garrison, ND 58540

February/March 2022

Volume 40- Number 1

Ash Wednesday



ASH WEDNESDAY

We will start the Lenten season with supper on March 2nd at 6:30 p.m., followed by Ash Wednesday Worship at 7:15 p.m.

The Ash Wednesday worship service will include an Imposition of Ashes.

This year, we are inviting people to two options for the Wednesdays in Lent:

St. Paul's - 6:30 p.m. for supper; 7:15 p.m. for worship

1st Congregational, UCC - 6:00 p.m. supper; 6:30 p.m.

Lenten discussion.

The worship service will be streamed on Facebook on Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m.

Please join us on Mar. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 & 6.

Easter Worship: April 17 Bishop Craig Schweitzer will be leading the worship services at St. Paul's.

Join us to worship the risen Christ!

Prospective Member Lunch:

Anyone/families wanting more information about St. Paul's and/or are thinking about becoming members, are invited to a luncheon on February 6, 2022, at 11:30 a.m. Please let Pastor Janis, Holly or the office know if you are interested in attending as soon as you can, we'll need a lunch count.

From the Pastor

Greetings friends!

I wanted to thank you for putting your trust in me to be with you during this pastoral transition. I am honored to be in service and mission with you.

It has been an easier transition for me because of my family's membership and of course my role in the community at Camp of the Cross and First Congregational, UCC.

My role will be mainly to help support the staff, council, and committees in their work. And supporting you as individuals however you may want or need my support in your lives.

You will see me mainly on one Sunday a month for Holy Communion and I may be able to sneak in an additional Sunday here or there. I will also help with funerals and weddings as I am able to.

I will be in the office most Tuesday mornings, but please feel free to contact me anytime. I am here to serve you as your interim pastor during the call process.

I can't thank you enough for your kindness and support over the years for my family and for my role at CCM. I am excited to continue to do ministry together in the Garrison area during this period and work alongside of you!

Blessings!

Peace,

Rev. Janis Sloka, III

Interim Pastor

FEBRUARY IS PAPER MONTH

February is once again being designated as “Paper Products” month at the church.



We ask for donations of paper products that are used by the church as a way to keep costs lower. The products that we need are copier paper, napkins, toilet paper and paper towels. Copier paper should be 8 ½” by 11” or 8 ½” by 14”, white paper. It usually comes in 20-pound reams of 500 sheets. Donated paper products may be placed on the designated table in the church entry. All donations of these products are appreciated. Thanks for your help!!



Spring Supper

It's that time of year again! Preparations are under way for our annual Spring Supper. The date for this year's supper is

Sunday, March 6 with serving from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Mike and Deb Youngs have accepted to be the chairmen of this year's supper. Please volunteer to help with the many positions needed to make the supper successful. There will be sign-up sheets in the Narthex of the church.

- The menu includes turkey & dressing, roast pork, mashed potatoes & gravy, coleslaw, green bean casserole, cranberry sauce, buns and apple dessert.

Raffle The St. Paul Women are selling raffle tickets for a quilt, Mary Kay basket, jewelry, crocheted hand towels and miscellaneous items. They will be on sale from now until the church supper, where the drawing will take place at 7 p.m. March 6th. The office will have tickets along with women of the church.

CHURCH  COUNCIL

Election of new Council members will be held at our Annual Meeting on January 30. Following the Annual Meeting, the new Council will elect officers for 2022.

-The Church Council met on January 2, 2022.

-Call committee and council will meet with Sherie Heine from the synod on Jan. 9 after worship. Pastor Janis Sloka, III has met regularly with the staff and will attend some committee meetings.

-Holly has six St. Paul and 2 UCC youth signed up to go on a summer youth service trip. Sonshine Friends is going well and has volunteers stepping up to help. \$3000 was raised during Dicken's.

-Old Business: New urinals were installed. MSC to replace two toilets in the women's bathroom. The parsonage has a list of small projects-get ahold of Keith if anyone has time to help. Andrew will be checking the parsonage in Jan. and Feb. Candidates to run for council are Traci Ruhland, Leeann Wimer, and for a second term; Andrew Haugen and Deb Youngs. Mike and Deb Youngs are chairing the Spring Dinner.

-New Business: MSC to give bonuses for 2021 to Kim Gehring, Sundi Lagge, Pam Kolden, Holly Klemisch, Loree Jeffers and Annie Langseth. Salary/Pay: MSC to give staff a 3 percent raise, excluding Vice-pastor and Tech. position. The 2022 Budget was presented and MSC to present to the congregation. MSC to put a \$15,000 gift towards the parsonage principle.

Financial Update

As of January 21, 2022

Income \$ 8250.24

Expenses \$11,588.13

Difference (-\$3,337.89)

2021 Year End

Income \$167,043.66

Expenses \$165,293.58

Difference \$ 1,750.08

(Doesn't incl. Parsonage
Principle)

Offering Envelopes

Just a reminder that we do have offering envelopes for weekly or monthly giving on a table in the church entry and single envelopes located in the church pews. You don't need an envelope unless you are giving cash and want a giving statement at the end of the year.

St. Paul Funds:

We are ever grateful for your offerings of time, talent, and treasure given in service to the gospel of Jesus!

And so, as we look to the future, we are cognizant of other property projects. If you wish to make a specific contribution, here are the funds you can give towards:

Building Fund, Carpet Fund, Cemetery Fund, Parking Lot Fund, Parsonage Principle Fund, Sr. Scholarship Fund, and Memorial Fund.

Newsletter News

The next Epistle will cover April and May and include the April Calendar. We will update a calendar every month and email it out or set it on the table in the church entryway for those who would like to pick one up. You may also call the office if you want a calendar mailed to you.

-Items for the March Calendar are due February 21st

-Items for the April/May newsletter are due March 20th

Sunday School Update

-Mid-winter greetings! We made a huge change in Sunday school this year. We moved Sunday School to 9a. This change was made at the request of some Sunday school families. A survey was sent to our Sunday school families last fall asking for their opinions on moving Sunday school. The responses came back supporting the change and we are giving it a try.

-Sunday School is now 9a-9:35a. We ask that families drop-off and pick-up their kiddos at the fellowship door to avoid congestion at our main doors. Attendance is the same so far, (it has only been a couple of weeks). The families have been supportive of the change. We will re-evaluate the change and follow up with another survey this spring.

-We are following the Lectionary schedule, so our lessons coincide with the weekly readings in worship. The students love working on their Bible plays that get performed each month during fellowship. In January we will be performing the same week as the Annual Meeting (30th). Be sure to stay for the Soup/Sandwich Lunch after church that day.

-There will be no Sunday school on February 20th due to the extended school break.

-Finally, we are excited to announce that we will begin working on our Easter Program in February. We will be performing our play on Palm Sunday (April 10th) during the worship service. More details will be coming as parts are assigned. Thank you to the amazing St Paul's quilting ladies as they performed some much-needed repairs on a few of our costumes. This church is so supportive of our youth, and we know we are loved.

As always, if you have any concerns and/or questions, please reach out.

Blessings in Christ,
Lisa Maki

Sonshine Friends

A few important announcements regarding Sonshine Friends: There will be NO class on February 16th. Group B (3-6th Graders) will meet on February 9th instead. The calendar that went out in September has those two dates flip flopped.

Our curriculum “Good Stewards Together” will be finishing up towards the end of March, but we will move into some special sessions on Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter, and Jesus’ Ascension. I can’t believe the year is going so quickly! I appreciate the dedication of my middle schoolers who have helped so much this year and my adult helpers for keeping everything on track. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know your children better and learning along with them about what stewardship looks like 😊

Blessings,

Holly Klemisch

Faith Formation Director

Camp of the Cross Bashes:

March 18-19 4th-6th graders

March 25-26 7th-9th graders

Anyone wanting to go to the Bash can register with Camp of the Cross and then let Holly know. The general youth budget will pay you back \$20 out of the \$40. Friends are welcome, they too must register with camp and pay \$40. Camp is a great place to hang out!!!

VBS Update:

We have chosen our theme for VBS, “Food Truck Party; On a Roll with God”. We are excited to continue planning this fun week for our area youth in grades K-6! We have not picked dates yet; more details will come soon.

Holly Klemisch, VBS Coordinator

First Communion instruction:

It has been a tradition in the past that the 3rd Graders complete a class on First Communion and receive their formal First Communion on Maundy Thursday. In keeping with this, Pastor Janis will be hosting the 3rd Graders for the First Communion class on **Sunday, March 13th at 9 am** for the first part. The second portion of the class will be continued after worship that day at **11 am**. This will be the only class they are required to complete. We will have a meal together with this year's students and family at **6:00 p.m. on Maundy Thursday (April 14th)**. The students will receive their First Communion during Maundy Thursday worship. Mark your calendars early!

FELLOWSHIP



All are invited to stay and visit after worship on Sundays. We are having self-serve fellowship in February/March. The fellowship committee will buy goodies, and someone will make coffee and set the goodies out. Everyone will then serve themselves. There is a fellowship sign-up sheet located on the bulletin board in the kitchen if you are willing to setup and cleanup fellowship. There is no baking or preparing involved. Thanks!

Fellowship offering goes towards: Central African Republic (our Companion Synod); Operation Christmas Child; Sr. Scholarships; Camp Scholarships; & Fellowship Supplies.

Used iPad: we are asking if anyone has a used iPad they are willing to donate to the church? This would help with our live streaming and sound system for worship.

Camp Annual Meeting: 2 pm February 27th at St. Paul's. We need 3 delegates to register to vote. All people attending the meeting need to register. Any questions, ask Janis.

Committees

St. Paul's has several committees that do the work of the church. It is important to know what keeps our church going, and to know that you are all the church. You are all invited to be a part of any of these committees. Here is a list of the committees and a little about what they do.

Parish Ed. – Oversees preschool-6th grade faith formation

Youth – Oversees 7th-12th grade faith formation

Worship – Plans/discusses all aspects of worship

Fellowship – Takes care of fellowship signup, supplies, decorations on tables, picture above window, Confirmation and Senior tables, and all aspects of fellowship.

Social Action – Support the church, town, state and world in many ways. Collect items and money for many needs.

Property – Maintains the church and parsonage property

Altar Guild – In charge of changing paraments/banners per church season, worship decorations and altar flowers.

Tech. – Works with all aspects of technology. Computers, sound systems, streaming worship...

Decorating – for Seasons of the church – keeping the church looking festive and inviting.

See the church bulletin board for Committee Reports and members serving on those committees.



Pop Tab Collection – Through the saving generosity of Bob Callies School, South Prairie School, St. Paul Lutheran, and various businesses in town 70 pounds of tabs were donated to the Ronald McDonald House in Bismarck in December. Wow! Please continue to save and bring to collection points or put them on my front porch. Another donation will happen in the spring. I have lots of storage space. Any questions, contact Marian Lehnerr.