

# St. Paul's Epistle

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

January/February 2024

Volume 41- Number 56



St. Paul  
Lutheran Church

## ALL ARE WELCOME!



ASH WEDNESDAY

### Ash Wednesday

We will start the Lenten season with supper on **February 14th** at 6:00 p.m., followed by **Ash Wednesday Worship at 7:00 p.m.** The Ash Wednesday worship service will include an Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.

*Wednesdays in Lent-* "The Miracles of Jesus"

Lunch and Devotions- 12 Noon- in the chapel. February 21, 28, March 6, 13 & 20

Lenten Worship at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. A light meal will be served at 6:00 p.m. February 21, 28, March 6, 13 & 20

### Palm Sunday Worship

March 24th with the Sunday School Easter Program

### Easter Worship

March 31st at 7 a.m. and 9:45 a.m.

Breakfast served from 8 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

***Join us to worship the risen Christ!***

### New Members



Anyone/families wanting more information about St. Paul's and/or are thinking about becoming members, please let Pastor Janis or Holly know if you are interested. New members will be received into our family on Sunday, March 3rd during worship.

### Offering Envelopes

Reminder that we have envelopes for weekly and monthly planned giving on the table in the Narthex.

### Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 28, 2024.

REPORTS will be due by January 8th!

### Mark your calendars!

The Annual Spring Supper will be Sunday, March 3rd!

# Sunday School



Sunday School is on most Sunday's  
from 11 a.m. to 11:50 am.

We sing once a month in worship, giving you details on those dates as they approach. We will perform two plays during the year, one at Christmas and one on Palm Sunday.

Sunday School is open to any child going into Pre-K through Grade 6. We will start in the Rainbow Room for music and split into three groups to watch a video lesson or story; or a game, experiment, or craft.

We are looking for **volunteers** to lead stations in the New Year. You can pick the Sundays that work for you. If you are

interested in leading a Sunday School station, a sign-up sheet is on a table in the narthex, or please contact Holly in the office.

## **NO Sunday School Classes**

-January 14th & February 18th

## **Sunday School sings in worship**

-January 28th

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## **GATHER**

## **GROW**

## **GO**

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# Children & Youth Happenings

## **Sonshine Friends: (Wed. After-School Program)**

Our theme for this year is "The 10 Commandments."

We continue to separate into two groups; K-2nd Graders (Group A) and 3rd-6th Graders (Group B). It's not too late to join us!

**Sonshine Friends will resume January 10th.**

**NO Sonshine Friends: Jan. 17th & Feb. 14th**

## **LYO - LIVING OUT LOUD**

Youth Meet-up for the Winter is for 6th-9th graders in the couch room after worship for visiting...we will talk about life happenings and discuss some tough questions we may have about our faith while enjoying a snack/beverage from fellowship! We will try to meet twice a month most months.

*6-8th Grade Sunday Evening Youth Group* will be meeting this winter once a month from 6PM-7:30PM.

## **First Communion Instruction**

It has been the practice that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders complete a class on First Communion and receive their formal First Communion on Maundy Thursday. However if parents of younger children believe they are ready to receive now please visit with Pastor Sloka.

In keeping with this, Pastor Janis will be hosting the First Communion class on **Sunday March 24th at 8:30 am** for the first part. The second portion of the class will be continued after worship that day at **11 am**. A parent is asked to attend with their child. 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 March 28th**. The students will receive their First Communion during Maundy Thursday worship. Mark your calendars early!

# Worship

## Sundays

Please remember we are committed to Live Streaming all of our worship services.

**Scripture Readers** January.

**Acolytes** for January.

**Fellowship Servers** are needed for the Winter! We are looking for people willing to serve coffee, juice and goodies on Sunday mornings after worship during fellowship time.

## Ash Wednesday

**Worship at 7:00 p.m.** The Ash Wednesday worship service will include an Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.

**Wednesdays in Lent**- "The Miracles of Jesus"

Lenten Worship at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. A light meal will be served at 6:00 p.m. February 21, 28, Mar 6, 13 & 20

## Palm Sunday Worship

March 24th 9:45am with the Sunday School Easter Program

## Maundy Thursday

March 28th at 7:00 p.m.

## Good Friday

March 29th at 7:00 p.m.

## Easter Worship

March 31st at 7 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. with Holy Communion

Breakfast served from 8 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

# Women's Ministry

**Raffle** The women will be having a Raffle to raise money for youth camperships, quilting, giving to organizations in the community, etc. We are asking for raffle donations or money to go for a few gift cards that we would purchase. The raffle drawings will take place at St. Paul's Spring Supper on March 3rd, 2024. Please let Loree Jeffers or staff know of your donations by January 8. We encourage all women to help us sell our raffle tickets, which will be available Sunday, January 14th.

## Financial Update

January 1-December 20, 2023

2023 Income	\$201,170.74
Transferred Contingency	\$ 9,000.00
2023 Parsonage Princ. & Int.	\$ 13,815.96
2023 Expenses	\$208,830.51
<b>Total Difference</b>	<b>(\$-12,475.73)</b>

## Weekly Bible Studies

### Men's Tuesday morning Bible

**Study:** will continue on Tuesdays, at 10:00 a.m. in the chapel. The study is looking at the upcoming Sunday readings.

### Thursday Morning Community

**Bible Study:** at the Meadows will continue at 10:00 a.m. on Thursdays. The study is looking at the upcoming Sunday readings.

### WOMEN'S CIRCLE MEETING and BIBLE STUDY

Morning Circle meets every month for fellowship and Bible study. They usually meet the 1st Wednesday at 9:30AM, but January will be Wednesday, January 10th.

### MOPS/MOMSNEXT

We are Lake Sakakawea MOPS/MOMSNEXT. Our community MOPS group meets on the first Monday of most months from September through May.

We meet at St Paul Lutheran Church from 6-8 p.m. Our theme for this year is "Say Yes!" We want to help you experience the joy and tackle the challenges of motherhood. Childcare is provided. If you would like more information, please contact Holly Klemisch at 701-471-3848 or Loree Jeffers at 460-0924.





Greetings friends!

Blessings to you and your families! A new year is here.

Our annual meeting is January 28th, please plan to attend. We have important actions coming from the council. More details will be sent out to you separately after their meeting in early January. We will be meeting in person and via Zoom. Information will be available in how to join us via Zoom.

I continue to be overwhelmed and grateful for this new call and adventure in my life. It was another great year. It has had its challenges, but that is in any important ministry. I have a saying I remember a lot. "If the devil isn't on your back you ain't doing it right!"

## CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

### Old Business:

Budget Discussions - Jenny made the motion, seconded by John, to present the proposed 2024 budget (Profit & Loss Budget Overview) Motion carried.

The financial committee recommended a 3% raise for regular staff & hourly employees. Jenny made the motion, seconded by Randy to increase the salary of the financial secretary, organists, and custodian wages for 2024 by 3%. Dan Voted no, other board members present voted yes. Motion carried. Discussion was held concerning unused or under spent budget items. Mike made the motion, seconded by Andrew to give Holly and Pastor Janis each a \$500.00 bonus for the 2023 year. Motion carried.

### New Business:

Council Member Terms- Council members hold 3-year terms. Terms ending include: Keith, John, Vicki and Dan. Keith, John & Vicki's positions will need to be filled.

### Cemetery Actions Needed

Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery- St. Paul Cemetery, Garrison. The Council appointment of a sexton (3-year term) - Jenny made the motion, seconded by Vicki to appoint Pastor Janis to a 3-year term as the sexton for the cemetery. Motion carried.

Venmo Account- Clair made the motion, seconded by Dan, for the church to open a 1-year account with Venmo. Motion carried.

Please note a couple of things I am highlighting in this newsletter. There is information about becoming a new member, when first communion instruction will be held, Lent opportunities and much more from other staff and council.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if you are interested in new ways for you to be involved in our community of faith. We have a vibrant community and faith. I am proud to be a part of it!

If you are struggling, please remember there are many resources at St. Paul that can help you in your journey, whether it be going well or in a season of struggles. There are many sisters and brothers in Christ who would be available to visit with you and share in your life happenings with you.

My office door is always open, I am easily emailed, and I am a cell phone call or text away! And if you are a Snap Chatting person, I am learning how to do that too.

Blessings as we continue to celebrate Christmas and move into the Epiphany Season!

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Parsonage Mortgage- Dan made the motion, seconded by Clair, to recommend to the congregation at the Annual Meeting to pay off the parsonage with money from the ELCA Fund A. Motion carried. Mike made the motion, seconded by John, to consolidate the building, sound, carpet, and parsonage accounts into the ELCA Fund A. Motion carried.

## ACTION GROUPS

The February Action Group will meet on Sunday, January 21st.

The March Action Group will meet on Sunday, February 18th.

## COUNCIL MEMBER INSTALLATION

New, current, and elected officers of the council will be installed on Sunday, February 4th. Thank you to Keith Thelen, Vickie Fure and John Crawford who have served their last terms. Your leadership and ministry has been appreciated!

*Our mission is to GATHER as God's people; to GROW in faith, love, and service; and to GO into the community and world as disciples of Jesus.*

## Special Lent Offering

*"A way to help others!" during this year's Lent!*

-This year we will be supporting CAR 'the Central African Republic' by collecting coins in M&M containers for CAR. You take an M&M container, eat the candy and fill the container with quarters. \$14 worth of quarters fill the container. Thank you for supporting our Companion Synod in Africa.

## Heart River Bridges of Hope "Fresh Start Kits"

"Fresh Start Kit Ministry" is a program that helps youth and adults get started in life, once they are released from the correctional facility in Mandan. There is more information and items that are needed on a table in the narthex. We will collect in January and February for a drop off date in March.

## FEBRUARY IS PAPER MONTH

February is designated as "Paper Products" month.

We ask for donations of paper products that are

used by the church as a way to keep costs lower.

The products that we use are copier paper, napkins, toilet paper and paper towels.

Copier paper should be 8 1/2" by 11" or 8 1/2" by 14", white paper. It usually comes in 20-pound reams of 500 sheets.

Donated paper products may be placed on a table in the church entry. All donations of these products are appreciated.



**YouTube Channel**  
St. Paul Lutheran Church,  
Garrison ND  
@stpaulutherangarrisonnd

## Camp of the Cross Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 25th.

## Spring Supper



Preparations are under way

for our annual Spring Supper. The date for this year's supper is **Sunday, March 3** with serving from 4:00-6:30 p.m. Dan Splichal is the chair 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, cole-slaw, green bean casserole, cranberry sauce, buns and apple dessert. \$18 adults/\$5 Children 6-12/5&under Free.

## Quilting



Quilting will-

continue to meet every Monday at 1PM through the spring, except Christmas Day and New Years Day.

Please call the office in case of inclement

## Snowbirds



Please let Holly Klemisch know when you are heading south so that she can change your mailing address for the winter. The church has to pay for every newsletter that is returned. We also need 200 newsletters to go out, to get the bulk rate. That's why most all of you get it mailed to you. Thanks!



**St. Paul Lutheran Church**

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stpaul@restel.com

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Church Council**

Keith Thelen, President

Clair Eslinger, Vice President

Deb Youngs, Secretary

Jenny Collings

John Crawford

Dan Splichal

Andrew Haugen

Randy Essler

Vicki Fure

Mike Maki

Tracy Ruhland

Lecann Wimmer

**Staff**

Rev. Janis Sloka, III pastor

Holly Klemisch, Faith Formation Director

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