

St. Paul's Epistle

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

February/March 2023

Volume 41- Number 1

Ash Wednesday



ASH WEDNESDAY

We will start the Lenten season with supper** on February 22nd 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 and Holy Communion.

Wednesdays in Lent- “seeking: honest questions for deeper faith”

- Lunch and Devotions- 12 Noon- March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29th in the chapel.
- Lenten Worship at 7:15 p.m. March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29th in the sanctuary. A light meal** will be served at 6:30 p.m.

** we will need volunteers to prepare, serve and clean up for every Wednesday meal

Easter Worship: April 9 at 7 a.m. and 9:45 a.m.

Join us to worship the risen Christ!

SPECIAL LENT OFFERINGS

“Two ways to help others!” during this year’s Lent!

-This year will be supporting CAR ‘the Central African Republic’ by collecting coins in M&M containers for CAR.

-We will also support the ELCA Global Barnyard with a coin bank.

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 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 a table in the church entry. All donations of these products are appreciated.

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 19th, 2023, at 11:45 a.m. Please let Pastor Janis or Holly know if you are interested in attending as soon as you can, we’ll need a lunch count. New members will be received into our family on Sunday, March 5 during worship.



Spring Supper

Preparations are under way for our annual Spring Supper. The date for this year’s supper is **Sunday, March 5** with serving from 4:00-6:30 p.m. Deb Youngs and Dan Spichal are co-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. \$18 adults/\$5 Children 6-12/5&under Free.

Raffle The St. Paul Women are selling raffle tickets for a quilt, jewelry, Cenex and Krause’s gift cards, table runner and miscellaneous items. They will be on sale from now through the church supper on March 5th, when the drawing will take place. They are \$2 each or three for \$5. The office will have tickets along with women of the church. The funds raised will help youth out with camp costs and buy some new tablecloths for the fellowship tables. Please support the women, buy and sell tickets.

From the Pastor

Greetings friends!

Blessings to you and your families! A new year is here. We are almost through the month of January and into February.

Our annual meeting is January 29th, and if you are reading this before that date please plan to attend. We will be meeting in person and via Zoom. Information will be available in how to join us via Zoom.

I can't thank you enough for your trust and hope in calling me as your next pastor! I am overwhelmed and grateful for this new call and adventure in my life. It has been a great year. It has had its challenges, but that is in any important ministry.

Sometimes I am surprised how hard the Holy Spirit works in our lives. Last year, at this time, I was adamant that I wasn't feeling the call to be your next pastor. And now look at where we are!?

😊 God is in charge!

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 slowly but surely learning how to do that too. 😊

Blessings as we move into the Lent and Easter season!

Peace,

Janis

Rev. Janis Sloka, III
Pastor

Election of new Council members will be held at our Annual Meeting on January 29. Following the Annual Meeting, the new Council will elect officers for 2023.

-The Church Council met on **January 11, 2023**.

-Pastor: Pastor Janis distributed a draft copy of a proposed personnel policy handbook for members to review and proofread for later discussion. Our live broadcasts of worship are being viewed by at least 30 people each week. We deliver bulletins to the Meadows where a group of people watch the service together.

-Faith Formation: Sonshine Friends Christmas parties went well. The staff put together a Christmas Day online service. The 6-9 gr. Mock Lock-In is coming up. Holly will soon be meeting with High school youth and parents to start planning the next youth trip.

-Old Business: A heater will be added to the attached parsonage garage because of ice issues on the doors. Four Candidates will be elected for council; Jenny Collings, Clair Eslinger & Mike Maki will run for second terms; We will ask someone to run for a first term. The 2023 Budget was presented and was approved to present to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

-New Business: Holly requested to create a new check book for the LYO account due to the number of activities and transfers in the passbook account. MSC. Deb Youngs and Dan Splichal will be chairing the Spring Supper this year on March 5th. We will be in person and using Zoom again for the Annual Meeting. People will need a Zoom link to get in.

December 14, 2022 Meeting over Zoom (storm)

Budget for 2023: Discussion on the proposed budget included: stewardship planning, learning activities, use of the Breeze program, increased utilities costs, growth in youth activities, increased outreach with internet access and support staff. The final budget proposal will be voted on at the January 11th meeting.

Continued on the next page...

Faith Formation Director position: Hours were added to this position earlier this year on a trial basis. MSC to make the FFD position a permanent 25 hour per week position.

2023 Salary amounts: Pastor Sloka's salary will be the amount recommended and set by the ELCA. MSC to provide a 3% raise for the current support staff. (Secretary, treasurer, FFD, custodian and organist positions).

COUNCIL MEMBER INSTALLATION

New, current, and elected officers of the council will be installed on Sunday, February 5th. Thank you to Sarah Chase who has served two terms. Your leadership and ministry has been appreciated!

Financial Update

2022 Year End

Income	\$191,314.92
Parsonage Principle	\$ 7,670.74
Expenses	<u>\$188,961.29</u>
Difference	(-\$ 5,317.11)

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 Principal Fund, Sr. Scholarship Fund, Sound System Fund and Memorial Fund.



Sunday School Update

The Sunday School will be performing on January 29th, during worship.

We are always looking for Sunday School teachers for each Sunday. There is a sign-up sheet on a table in the church narthex or get a hold of Lisa Maki @ (701) 500-0595. We're open for you to do one Sunday or many Sundays, the choice is yours. Thanks!

Sonshine Friends

We continue 'traveling through the Parables of Jesus' this year in Sonshine Friends. The first half of the year we have learned about 5 different Parables Jesus taught! We also had our annual Friendsgiving Celebration in November with our friends at Kid's Club and a Christmas party with both our groups right before Christmas break. We will begin again January 11th. We continue to split bi-weekly between K-2nd and 3-6th grades as we have around 18-22 kids in each group.

Holly Klemisch, FFD

Camp of the Cross Bashes:

March 10-11 4th-6th graders

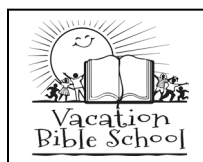
March 24-25 7th-9th graders

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 2023, "Hero Hotline: Called Together to Serve 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 the practice 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, April 2nd at 9 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 (April 6th)**. 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 asking people to serve fellowship in February/March. There is a fellowship sign-up sheet located on the table in the narthex. Thanks!



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

Camp Annual Meeting: February 26th at St. Paul's.
We need 3 delegates to register to vote. All people attending the meeting need to register. Any questions, call the camp office.

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 and 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 20th

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

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. Example: Fall, Christmas, Easter.

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



Pop Tab Collection – Please continue to save and bring to collection points, (St. Paul's is one), or put them on Marian Lehnherr's front porch. She will periodically take donations to Bismarck. Any questions, contact Marian Lehnherr.

Lutheran Campus Ministry Announcement

Lutheran Campus Ministry is pleased to announce that Pastor Rachel Simonson has accepted the Call to serve as the LCM rostered leader. LCM and MSU are excited to have her join this ministry on January 10. If you are on campus and near the Wellness Center, feel free to stop in the LCM office and welcome Pastor Rachel.

LCM Board of Directors



A measure of love

Jesus says one golden rule sums up the law.

Directions: Match the word parts from the ruler to the incomplete words in the first three Bible verses. Then add the bolded letters (in order) to Matthew 7:12 to complete that verse.

Do not seek **re**_____ or bear a grudge against anyone among your _____ople, but **love** your **neig**_____ as yourself.

LEVITICUS 19:18, NIV

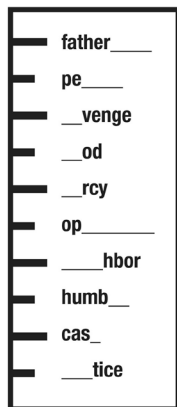
Learn to do **right**; seek jus_____. Defend the _____pressed. Take up the cause of **the** _____less; plead the _____e of the widow.

ISAIAH 1:17, NIV

He has shown **you**, O mortal, what is go____. ...

To act **justly** and to **love** me____ and **to** walk _____ly with your God.

MICAH 6:8, NIV



So in _____ything, do to ot _____ what you would _____ve them
d_____ to you, for this s_____ms up the _____w and the Proph_____s.

MATTHEW 7:12, NIV

Answer: revenge, people, neighbor, justice, oppressed, fatherless, case, good, mercy, humbly, everything, others, have, do, sums, Law, Prophets