

THE PROCLAIMER

January, February,
& March 2024



The mission of St. Paul Lutheran Church is to hear, share, and proclaim the Word of God.

LOVE CAME DOWN

Every year, during the Season of Advent, I ponder the meaning of words of the faith such as Love, Hope, Peace, and Joy. In both good and bad times, these words direct my prayers and my path. I want to reflect in this article on the power of Love, in both word and deed. 1 Corinthians 13:13 always speaks to me: “And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.” Many years ago, I first heard the song, “Love Came Down at Christmas” and my heart was moved by the power of hope, joy, and peace in these simple lyrics. Today’s world is so in need of the power of love and it comes to us year after year when Jesus is born and we participate in Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, and Lent in our regular worship.

What was the world like that first Christmas? For years, sin darkened each heart; love seemed so far away, but God led His people to trust and to pray. “Lord, hear us, we ask-help our faith to increase. Forgive us our sins; send us hope, joy, and peace.” He’d answer their prayer in Bethlehem town. As prayers went up, God’s love came down. Yes, love came down at Christmas.

Right before Thanksgiving, our youth gathered for an Advent Party, and seeing the kids of St. Paul gather for devotion, food, and fun, I felt the love that we find in Jesus. And then on Sunday, December 10th as the children and youth presented the Call to Worship and Message, my heart was filled again with love for each child and young person to grow in their faith. Finally in the cold of the Drive though Luminary, my heart was filled with love as the youth and children, in drama and the songs of the little angels, told the story of great love at Christmas. The time spent with my 4 Confirmation students and Sunday School class fills my heart with hope and love.

Let’s take these moments and memories with us as my prayer is to fill St. Paul with God’s people, ready to work and share the message of love. My own life is changed because of every opportunity that Bert and I have to gather in this lovely church and continue to learn and grow with God’s people. May our lives reflect the hope of light overcoming darkness; the peace that passes all understanding; and the joy that comes from knowing Jesus. All four words are so important: hope, peace, joy, and love.

Here is my Christmas message to St. Paul friends: Love came down at Christmas in the person of Jesus. Our great God has richly blessed us with His love in this beautiful season. May each of us have the joyful anticipation of His presence through all the New Year brings. Ephesians 3:17 is a love summary of my wish for you: “Christ will make His home in your hearts as you trust in Him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong.” Christmas Blessings to each and every one.

In Christ’s Love,
Ann Mahnken

MASON MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE CYCLE OF PRAYER

The Mason Ministerial Alliance is asking congregations and faith-based organizations to pray for each other during the year, on a rotating basis monthly. For January 2024, we are all asked to pray focused prayers for St. Martin’s Episcopal Community. For February 2024, we are all asked to pray focused prayers for St. Paul Lutheran Church. For March 2024, we are all asked to pray focused prayers for Mason Community Church/Grace Christian School.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024, immediately following worship.

Among the business items we will deal with at the Annual Meeting are the following:

- Approval of the 2024 Ministry Plan
- Election of individuals to serve on the Church Council from the following nominees: Chel Terrell, T. McIntosh, and Matt Schmidt
- Election of the Synod Assembly delegates and the Nominating Committee for 2024

Outgoing council members are Josh Brooks, Joe Keller, & Jeff Owen.

CHILI COOKOFF

Put together a team, give your chili a fun name and bring it! Various prizes will be awarded. Sunday, January 28. Starts after the Annual Meeting following church. Cornbread and all the fixings for chili will be provided. If you are willing to bring a pot of chili, please contact LeEster at 512.751.4497. Donations will be given to our food bank!

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Morning Bible group will begin a new study series, "Growing Older and Wiser," Life Guide Bible Studies. Women of St. Paul are invited to participate in this new series. The group meets the first Wednesday of the month at 10:00am. For a study guide or more information you may contact Alberta Birk.

CHRISTMAS LUMINARY

The adults and youth worked together to bring the successful annual Christmas Luminary together. We humbly thank all the individuals who helped make this gift to the community possible.

40 DAYS OF LENT

BEGIN ASH WEDNESDAY, February 14

Schedule: (All services begin at 6:30 PM)

- Ash Wednesday, February 14
- Wednesday, February 21
- Wednesday, February 28
- Wednesday, March 6
- Wednesday, March 13
- Wednesday, March 20

Holy Week:

Palm/Passion Sunday: March 24 at 10:45AM

Maundy Thursday: March 28 at 7:00 PM

Good Friday: March 29 at 7:00 PM

Resurrection Worship: March 31 at 10:45 AM

LENTEN SUPPER SCHEDULE - FELLOWSHIP HALL AT 6:00 PM

With the start of the Lenten Season just around the corner, preparations for the Lenten suppers have begun. Each of the church committees will host a light supper for those attending the Lenten worship services. The meal will be served in the Fellowship Hall beginning Wednesday, February 21 at 6:00 p.m. with the worship service following at 6:30 p.m. (A meal will not be served on Ash Wednesday.) The schedule for serving meals for Lent is:

February 21 - Worship & Music Committee

February 28 - Parish History & Evangelism
Committees

Mar. 6 - Parish Life & Stewardship Committees

Mar. 13 - Property Committee

Mar. 20 - Parish Education & Children's Church
Committees

STANDING COMMITTEES GROUP MEETING

The tentative date for the Standing Committees Group Meeting is Sunday, February 25th. At this time each year, standing committees meet, organize and set goals for the coming year. This is also a time to encourage members who are not involved in one of the standing committees to join. Our present standing committees are Worship & Music, Evangelism and Social Concerns, Property, Parish Life, Parish History, Parish Education, Children's Church and Stewardship.

A covered dish luncheon will be held immediately following Worship on February 25th and the group meeting will begin after the luncheon.

FOOD BANK SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY



St Paul's month for volunteers to assist in food distribution is February. Current distribution schedule is February 12 and February 26.

If you want to volunteer contact Mark Lehmborg at 347-2400. Packing food boxes takes place in the morning and actual distribution occurs in the afternoon from 4pm to 5:30 pm to drive through food recipients.

MONTHLY CALENDAR

The monthly calendar is available upon request by print or email. You may also view our calendar on our website or church app. Please notify the office for more information, stpaulmason@gmail.com or 347-5582.

EASTER LILIES



The Altar Guild will decorate the church sanctuary again this year using Easter lilies. Order envelopes will be inserted in the Sunday bulletins on March 10 and 17. Please fill out the information on

the envelope, place your payment inside and drop it in the marked box in the narthex. Cost per plant is \$10. Deadline for orders will be Wednesday, March 20.

ST. PAUL CELEBRATES JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Mary Schmidt	11	Amy Brooks
2	Avery Brooks	12	Sherry Schmidt
4	Lynn Reichenau	18	Steve Schmidt
5	Jenna Evans	20	Jodie Evans
	Rex Smith	22	Allyson Yonker
6	Caycen Potter	23	Colinn Evans
	Everly Rabon	29	Jimroy Atchison
7	Joan Lindley	31	Sherie Clarkson
9	Casey Callahan		
	Gene Zesch		
	Kassi Reichenau		

ST. PAUL CELEBRATES FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

3	Tommy Durst
4	Reubin Ake
8	John Gillespie
10	Stephanie Sparks Simonton
11	Patsy Zesch
12	Tom Gafford
	Cannon Jacoby
	Mary Thorn
14	Cathy Grace
15	Jack Gillespie
17	Linda Doyal
	Mark Lehmborg
26	Margarine Beaman
29	LeEster Burch

ST. PAUL CELEBRATES MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1	John Gammill	20	Hux Geistweidt
6	Alett Rosberg		Cannon Rabon
8	Jessie Gierisch	21	Pastor Bill Hill
13	Helen Hahn	26	Deb Probst
14	Caleb Reichenau	27	Hunter Wenzel
15	Alberta Birk	28	Linda Owen
	Hunter Geistweidt	29	Kathy Hill
17	Wesley Nebgen	31	Adley Ann Martin

If your birthday or a family member's birthday is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please let Deb Probst know @ 325-597-2832 or dcprobst@hotmail.com. Thank you for helping us with this project.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- Approved the Report of the Nominating Committee. Nominees for 2024 Council are Chel Terrell, T. McIntosh, and Matt Schmidt.
- Date for Annual Congregational Meeting set for Sunday, January 28.
- Council approved the 2024 Ministry Plan of \$215,243.
- Annual Reports are due in the Church Office by January 3, 2024. This includes all committees and organizations of St. Paul Lutheran.

PROCLAIMER PUBLICATION

The Proclaimer will be published 4 times each year in January, April, July and October.

OFFICE HOURS

St Paul Lutheran Office hours are Monday - Wednesday with the times remaining the same, 8:30 - 4:00 and lunch hour from 12:00-1:00.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER

Congregational Giving: \$ 15,787.75
Expenditures: \$16,321.13

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR OCTOBER

Congregational Giving: \$12,633.45
Expenditures: \$13,242.40

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR NOVEMBER

Congregational Giving: \$21,802.56
Expenditures: \$15,938.24

YEAR TO DATE - FOURTH QUARTER

MINISTRY PLAN CONTRIBUTION

GOAL: \$265,128.00

YEAR TO DATE - FOURTH QUARTER

MINISTRY PLAN PROJECTED

CONTRIBUTIONS: \$ 206,437.52

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Rev. Mark Ward	Supply Pastor
Mrs. Heather McFarland	Church Administrator
Mrs. Ann Mahnken	Youth Coordinator

Church Office Hours:

Mon.-Wed. 8:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
(325)347-5582 (Office) (325)347-8420 (Fax)
Email: stpaulmason@gmail.com
Website: www.stpaulmason.com

STEWARDSHIP DIRECTORY

FOR FEBRUARY

Lay Reader: TBA

Communion Assistants: Carolyn Loeffler & Deb Probst

Council Rep. on Duty: Walt Reichenau

Bell Ringers: Mark Lehmborg & Mike Goff

Speaker System: Bob Vacek and Mark Lehmborg

Ushers: Glenn Ruthven, Glenn Nebgen, Debbie Nebgen, & Bridget Langdale

Property Person on Duty: Nancy Brown

Altar Guild:

Flower Chairman: Paulette Keller

Parament Chairman: Kassi Reichenau

Communion Chairman: Helen Habecker

Women's Bible Study:

Morning Bible Study (First Wed. of Month at 10am)

Bible Study Leader: Bridget Langdale

Hostesses: Helen Habecker

Location: Helen Habecker's home

Memorials: Church Office 347-5582 or Linda Geistweidt 347-6236

STEWARDSHIP DIRECTORY

FOR JANUARY

Lay Reader: Sherry Schmidt

Communion Assistants: Del Roy Reichenau & Janet Schmidt

Council Rep. on Duty: Janet Schmidt

Bell Ringers: Mark Lehmborg & Mike Goff

Speaker System: Bob Vacek and Mark Lehmborg

Ushers: Jerry Bearden, Walt Reichenau, Rex & Connie Smith, and Harold Albers

Property Person on Duty: Matt Schmidt

Altar Guild:

Flower Chairman: Nancy Brown

Parament Chairman: Debbie Nebgen

Communion Chairman: Sherry Schmidt

Women's Bible Study:

Morning Bible Study (First Wed. of Month at 10am)

Bible Study Leader: Alberta Birk

Hostess: Cynthia Bauer

Location: Fellowship Hall

Memorials: Church Office 347-5582 or Linda Geistweidt 347-6236

We wish to thank those who have so graciously contributed their time and talents toward the ministry of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

STEWARDSHIP DIRECTORY

FOR MARCH

Lay Reader: TBA

Communion Assistants: Jeff Owen & Mark Lehmborg

Council Rep. on Duty: TBA

Bell Ringers: Mark Lehmborg & Mike Goff

Speaker System: Bob Vacek and Mark Lehmborg

Ushers: Bill Grace, Mike Goff, Cindy Bowden, & Cathy Grace

Property Person on Duty: Glenn Ruthven

Altar Guild:

Flower Chairman: Sherie Clarkson

Parament Chairman: Connie Smith

Communion Chairman: Bonnie Schmidt

Women's Bible Study:

Morning Bible Study (First Wed. of Month at 10am)

Bible Study Leader: Helen Habecker

Hostess: Janette Tomlinson

Location: Fellowship Hall

Memorials: Church Office 347-5582 or Linda Geistweidt 347-6236

