

The Messenger

MARCH 2023



St. Paul United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 130
400 West G St.
Elmwood, NE 68349-0130
Phone: 402-994-6735
Email: stpauelmwood@gmail.com

Sunday, March 12, 2023, 2:00 a.m.

Pastor Michelle Chesnut
Cell phone: 402-314-7988
Email: mchesnut@greatplainsumc.org
Website: elmwoodmurdockumc.com

Ebenezer United Methodist Church
P. O. Box 307
220 Kansas Street
Murdock, NE 68407
Phone: 402-867-3191
Email: murdockumc1@gmail.com

FEBRUARY AND MARCH MISSION PROJECT

Ten years ago, Leah Pauli Bochnicek was diagnosed with lung cancer. Her family started a foundation to support lung cancer research at the Buffett Cancer Center in Omaha. From Murdock, Leah raises funds for a local solution to a life-threatening problem.

Please financially support the Lungs4Life Foundation in their efforts during February and March.

CHOIR NEWS

Celebrating 15 years as a combined Ebenezer/St. Paul Choir!

I am inviting all former and current members to join me in this celebration. We will hold a mini concert on Sunday, April 30, 2023 at both churches, showcasing some of our past anthems. Practices will begin on Wednesday, March 29th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul. For questions, please call Laurel at 402-440-5675.

PLEASE COME JOIN IN THIS COMMEMORATION!



UMYF NEWS

(UMYF is for all 7th-12th graders.)



Our normal Wednesday night Bible Study will be at Murdock on March 15th at 5:30 p.m.
Our monthly fun event will be Sunday, March 5th at 4:00 p.m.
We will meet at St. Paul and have Make-Your-Own-Pizza and play Bunko.
Come join in the fun.

Confirmation is now being offered the second week of each month at two different times:
12:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 12th at Elmwood and/or 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 8th at Murdock.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cass County Food Pantry Distribution

Saturday, March 18, 2023, 9:00–11:00 a.m.
Location: Old Village Town Hall Building
113 West E Street, Elmwood

Elmwood Community Center

The Center is open for meals at noon or the weekday lunches can be delivered upon request or can be picked up at the center. Call 402-994-2145 to make a request for lunch.

They will have a monthly breakfast buffet again on Sunday, March 19, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. They request that reservations be made by the Friday, March 17th. Cost: \$8 Adults, Ages 10-3 \$5, Ages 2 & under free

ALSO ON THE SAME DAY

Soup Luncheon

Sunday, March 19, 2023, 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Elmwood Learning Center, 221 South 4th St.
Serving Chicken Noodle, Chili, etc. plus
Cinnamon rolls and other desserts
Free-will donations will be used toward Flag Deposit
Box which is an Eagle Scout project.

UWIF CORNER

The Elmwood UWIF will meet on Monday, March 6, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. at Suzie Allgayer's home. Dakota Glasshoff will be at the meeting to tell us about Children's Justice Clinic.

Murdock UWIF will have their next meeting on Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. for their usual meal and meeting at the church.

SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERING

The special offering on Sunday, March 19th will support the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Through UMCOR, we are able to make a difference in the lives of communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by storms, wars, fires, displacement and climate change. This offering underwrites UMCOR's costs of doing business, allowing UMCOR to keep the promise that 100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs.



March Birthdays-Elmwood



Melissa Wheeler – March 3
Marissa Oehlerking – March 6
Lyn Kopf – March 8
Rebecca Smith – March 9
Dan Spaulding – March 10
Sharon Stewart – March 13

Tucker Oehlerking – March 16
Haley Kollars – March 16
Grace Kraeger – March 16
Brianna Poteet – March 20
Marcie Miller – March 22
Ella and Hudson Vogt – March 23

Jase Blunt – March 27
Teresa Hawks – March 28
Chad Peterson – March 29
Adam Wenzel – March 29
Brent Vogt – March 30
Carol Wilhelm – March 30



March Birthdays-Murdock



Dave Friesell – March 1
Kirstie Harvey – March 9
Mason Butler – March 9
Lawrence Smith – March 16
Thea Bornemeier – March 20
Linda Glantz – March 20

Annie Backemeyer – March 22
Justin Baumeister – March 22
Drew Backemeyer – March 23
Benjamin Harvey – March 27
Charles Schafer – March 27
Tony Synovec – March 30

PASTOR'S PEN



Happy March,

Here we are at the beginning of another month but also the beginning of Lent. Lent has always been an interesting time for me. As I was growing up, it was all about giving something up. Depriving myself of something that I love for the next month and a half. The problem was that I was never really sure why I had to give something up. Why am I giving up a thing I love, what is it going to achieve in the grand scheme of things other than break a habit I have like drinking soda or chewing gum? I have thought many times over the years about this concept of giving up something for Lent.

I don't know about you all but I often find myself doing things that are really surface level without fully digging into the why of it. Why do we eat fish on Fridays? Why are Sundays and Wednesday church days? Why do we give up something during Lent? Sometimes we do these things without thinking about the why because we don't have the time to really dig in, that is fine. But when we talk about Lent and giving up something should the why not be something we dig into?

The theory behind giving up something for Lent is that giving up something is causing a distraction for us as Christians from our relationship from God. What are the things that are stopping you from fully investing in your relationship with God? Maybe you are valuing sleep over morning prayer or catching up on the newest episode of your favorite show over reading the Bible. Perhaps you are drinking alcohol instead of following the way God is leading you. Those are the things you are supposed to be giving up. Making a change that will bring you closer to God.

I know when I was a kid and at times even now, the concept of giving up something for Lent is almost like a fad. It is the cool thing to do. But are we doing it for the right reason? If we are really going to deprive ourselves of something that we like or love, should there not be a goal of gaining something of substance in return? The goal of this time of Lent is to bring us closer to God. If that means we need to give up something that is distracting you from that relationship, make sure it means you are taking the next step which is building that stronger relationship with God. Just giving something up isn't getting us any closer to our goal.

Jesus fasted in the desert for 40 days and 40 nights as a way to force himself to rely more fully on God and his relationship with Him. After being tempted by Satan three times, Jesus' final reply is this "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Satan knows when we are growing closer with God; and like with Jesus, Satan will tempt us. As we strive to strengthen our relationship with God this season, may we remember to also push Satan away and worship and serve God only.

Until Next Time,
Pastor Michelle



DON'T FORGET!

Choir practice starts at 7:00 p.m. on
Wednesdays
Bell practice starts at 6:45 p.m. on
Thursdays

Both at Elmwood St. Paul UMC



SOUP LUNCHEON

Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023

Time: 11am-1:30pm

Location: Learning Center
221 South 4th St Elmwood, NE

Serving: Chicken Noodle, Chili and other soups, Cinnamon Rolls, and Desserts

Free Will Donation

Donations will be used towards a Flag Deposit Box* at the Elmwood G.A.R. Hall Veteran's Museum. Sponsored by American Legion Post 247

*Eagle Scout Project

ANNUAL SOUP DINNER

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
31104 CHURCH ROAD, MURDOCK

SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2023
11:30 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M.

VARIETY OF SOUPS, SANDWICHES,
DESSERT AND DRINK

FREE WILL OFFERING FOR
HEARTLAND EQUINE THERAPY
ACADEMY IN GRETNA

CHICKEN/BISCUIT DINNER

SYRACUSE UMC
560 6TH STREET, SYRACUSE

SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2023
5:00 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M.

CREAMED CHICKEN AND BISCUIT
DINNER WITH DRINKS AND
HOMEMADE DESSERTS

FREE WILL OFFERING
ALL ARE WELCOME

UPCOMING EVENTS

Maundy Thursday Worship Service, April 6, 2023, 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul, Elmwood
Good Friday Worship Service, April 7, 2023, 7:00 p.m. at Elmwood Christian Church
Sunrise Service, Sunday, April 9, 2023, 6:30 a.m., Grandpa's Woods Golf Course
Easter Sunday Worship Services, April 9, 2023, normal worship times



March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5:30pm UWIF – M	2	3	4
5 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E 4:00pm UMYF - E	6 1:30pm UWIF – E 6:30pm Lenten Study - M	7	8 5:30pm Confirmation – M 7:00pm Choir Practice - E	9 6:45pm Bell Practice - E	10	11
12 <i>Daylight Savings</i> 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E 12:00pm Confirmation - E	13 6:30pm Lenten Study – M 7:30pm Church Council - M	14	15 1:30pm Sew 'N Sews – M 5:30pm Youth Bible Study – M 7:00pm Choir Practice - E	16 6:45pm Bell Practice - E	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18 9-11:00am Food Pantry Distribution
19 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E UMCOR Sunday	20 6:30pm Lenten Study – M 7:30pm Church Council - E	21	22 7:00pm Choir Practice – E	23 6:45pm Bell Practice - E	24	25
26 9:00am Worship Service – M 9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E	27 6:30pm Lenten Study - M	28	29 7:00pm Choir Practice – E	30 6:45pm Bell Practice - E	31	1

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Address Service Requested

