



ST. PAUL VISITOR MARCH 2022

*The mission of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church is to **CELEBRATE** and **PROCLAIM** to all the saving grace of JESUS CHRIST in word and deed.*



We pray for...

LaDonna, Charles, Anne,
Jackie, Judy, Myles,
Debbie, Al, Dave, Charles,
Elizabeth, Louise, Jon,
Mace, Micah, Abby and
Michelle.

Shepherding God, you
are the source of life and
health. Surround those
who struggle with illness
or other difficulties of life
and bring them to
wholeness and healing.
Amen.

If you would like to add
someone to the prayer
list or have a "prayer
email" sent out please
call Kathy at 304-525-
9630.

WORSHIP

We continue to have in person worship as well as live streaming on our Facebook page. Services are also posted on our YouTube channel. We ask that you wear a mask while in the building.

COVID 19

As of now the council is asking that all persons wear a mask while in the church building.

OFFICE HOURS

Generally someone is in the church office Monday through Thursday from 9:30am-1:30pm. If you are planning to come to the church please call beforehand to make sure Pastor or Kathy is there.

OFFERINGS

Your offering is still very important to continue the mission of St. Paul. Please mail your offering to the church address:

721 12th Avenue
Huntington, Wv 25701

CONNECT WITH US

Phone: 304-525-9630

Email:
secretary@stpaulhuntington.org
pastor@stpaulhuntington.org
music@stpaulhuntington.org
youth@stpaulhuntington.org

**VISIT OUR
WEBSITE**

stpaulhuntington.org



St. Paul Lutheran Congregation
Group



St. Paul Lutheran Church
Huntington, WV

Pastor's reflections

Every morning the past couple of weeks I have begun to hear a cardinal outside one of the widows in our family room. Problem is I cannot seem to see the bird. You would think he would stick out being the brilliant red male cardinals tend to be. But I cannot seem to find it. I look and I look, and I look but to no avail. So, what I have decided to do is listen. I sit in my chair (each of us have a chair in our family room) and close my eyes and listen.

Listening is really hard for all of us. In this world there is so much noise. There is so much sound that it is hard to block it all out. In a recent National Geographic special that I watched there were several men going deep into a cave with sound equipment to find a place with no sound. Who knew that there are places in this world that have no sound!

As we begin this Lenten time on March 2 with Ash Wednesday there are many sounds and distractions that seem to be bombarding us. There is the news on Ukraine and Russian troops. There are the restrictions that are being lifted/ argued for/ against face coverings. There are the reminders daily that life is a struggle for people in our country economically. There are the daily grinds of life of those of us with children and families and our concern for their safety and growth.

This midweek we will be focusing God's love for us. Our theme is: Perfect Love Casts Out Fear: Evening Prayer for Lent. This worship is an opportunity to listen and not have the distractions of the sounds all around us. Christ the King Lutheran Church on Route 60 near Barboursville and St Paul will alternate hosting of these Wednesday services. Each church is in the planning stages as of this newsletter to have fellowship meals before worship.

Both the fellowship meals and the worship opportunities are another opportunity to "sit in our recliners" and listen to God. Listen to God's love that is outpoured to us daily and be together as church. I pray you will be able to attend any or all these services. The schedule is printed in the newsletter.

Before I leave you, this month there is one more suggestion I have for listening. Take time to "just sit" during your day. I like to relate this activity to Mary's pondering in the story of Jesus in Luke's gospel. It seems to me Mary's pondering is our "just sitting." It is a time to pause. For those of you with smart phones there is an app called Pause that is free that can help you in this activity. Check it out.

Blessings and Peace to you all as we begin this Lenten time,

Pastor Kevin L Mackey <><



Dear St. Paul Congregation,

I am writing this on February 23rd, exactly one week before Ash Wednesday. Lent is almost upon us. One of the hymns I chose for Ash Wednesday is "Be Thou My Vision." Most of you are very familiar with it: We have sung it more than once during my time at St. Paul (Holy Week will mark the end of my 5th year!). Below the hymn (in very, very small print) our hymnal provides information about the origin of text and music. For "Be Thou My Vision," it says:

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931

Music: Irish traditional

What does this mean?

The text is based on a poem in Old-Irish, a language that was spoken from around 600-900 A.D. and is a forebear of modern Irish and Scottish-Gaelic. Our hymnal states the poem was written in the 8th century, but there are other sources that date it 1-200 years earlier or later. Mary E. Byrne translated (tr.) the poem from Old-Irish into modern-day English in 1905, however the lyrics printed in our hymnal are one of the two versified versions (an "alternative" one, hence the abbreviations vers. and alt.) from 1912 by Eleanor H. Hull.

Interestingly, Hull's versions contain five verses, instead of just four, as in our hymnal. Our second verse consists of the first two lines of the original second verse and the last two lines of the original third verse (each verse has four lines). The omitted four lines are:

Original 2nd vers ending:

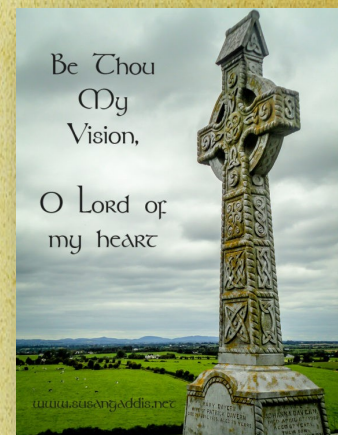
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;

Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Original 3rd vers beginning:

Be Thou my battle Shield, Sword for the fight;

Be Thou my Dignity, Thou my Delight;



For our 21st-century ears the reasons for the omissions seem obvious: We all partake in Worship (not just the men!), and we eschew language that may have been customary in 8th-century Ireland with constant warfare between clans but seems too belligerent for our modern and evolved understanding of the Christian life.

Nonetheless, there is one thing we can learn from knowing the content of the omitted lines: The original poem was a prayer for protection, a so-called *lorica* (lorica is a Latin word that means armor). The author is asking for God's protection against evil in the world. Let's do the same when we go through Lent toward Easter. For us, for others, and for peace on earth.

Henning

Do we love like we should? This month we focused on loving one another. We have been practicing to love like Jesus daily. The youth share their experiences with one another each time we gather. On February 2nd, we acknowledged not only Groundhog Day but Candlemas, which marks 40 days after Jesus' birth. We discussed that Candlemas is a day that commemorates the presentation of Jesus at the Temple. We read the story in Luke 2:22-40 of Simeon and Anna. Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple where Simeon had waited to meet the one God would send to save the world! Simeon was so happy that God kept his promise. Anna was so excited to meet Jesus as well. She shouted, "Jesus is the one God promised to send. Jesus will save the world!" We discussed the joy in our hearts that we feel is God's love and when we share it with others, it brings them joy. This is like the light of Christ and how we are to share the good news. Some people put candles in their windows on Candlemas. Some churches bless the candles they will burn in the church over the next year. I gave all the kids a candle with a picture of Jesus on the front and The Lord's prayer on the back. We lit our candles and said the Lord's prayer together. We pray to God first. We love one another. We listen. We serve. We share the Good News. The youth took their candles home as a reminder to pray first.

February has been a month of sharing and showing love to one another. We have collected items to help someone in our community. The youth have worked with Girl Scouts to collect 20 care kits for dogs and cats with these items: pet beds, food, treats, toys and Valentine's cards. We collected these items for elderly in need in Cabell County. We have started to work with Cabell County Community Service Organization, CCCSO, and help others in our community. We also made Valentines and collected beauty products and candies for women at Branches. We have been called to live and love like Jesus. Let us be like Simeon and Anna and share the love and light of Christ with others with great joy and excitement. Let the youth of St. Paul continue to do great things within our church walls, at home, school, and in our community! Let the Holy Spirit continue to fill us and lead us everyday!

As I remind our youth, let us all be reminded to: Pray without ceasing! Pray all the time! It doesn't have to be a long prayer or full of fancy words. Just say a simple, short prayer about whatever is on your mind or whatever is happening at the moment. It doesn't matter if you are in the shower, sitting on the couch, playing a game, eating dinner or lying in bed. JUST PRAY. Let God know what you are thinking or simply say His name. Whisper a verse from the bible. Just keep talking to God. God will always be there. God will always listen. God will always love you! Love never fails!

Ask and you will receive. And your joy will be the fullest joy. - John 16:24

May you always feel the Love and Grace of God,
Your loving sister in Christ,
Jill







Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday

April 10 Worship at 10:00am

Maundy Thursday

April 14 7:00pm Worship at St. Paul

Good Friday

April 15 7:00pm Worship at Christ the King

Easter Vigil

April 16 7:00pm Worship at St. Paul

Easter Sunday

April 17 10:00am Worship at St. Paul

(Breakfast still to be determined)



Tiffany Chapman's family lost their home because of a fire in January. She and her mother are in need of several items because of this. If you are able to donate new or like new of any of these items please bring them to the church and we will see that they receive them.

Shirts and pants size 2XL

Full size bed and bedding

Underwear and socks

Towels and blankets

Bras size 40dd or XL sports bra

Pants and shirts size small or size 4/5.



Wednesday, March 2

6:00pm

In Person Worship

With Holy Communion
and imposition of ashes



LENT MID-WEEK SERVICES

"Perfect Love Casts Out Fear: Evening Prayer for Lent"

This year we will be rotating our Mid-Week service with Christ The King Lutheran Church. The schedule will be:

March 9 at St. Paul

March 16 at Christ the King

March 23 at St. Paul

March 30 at Christ the King

April 6 at St. Paul

All services will begin at 7:00pm



Please join us for a quick Lenten Midweek meal on the following Wednesdays at 6:00pm:

March 9

March 23

April 6

Meals will be "Grab and Go" style and COVID safe.

40 DAYS, 40 QUARTERS

During Lent we are often asked to "give something up". Instead of giving something up this year, consider giving "to":

This Lenten season you are given the opportunity to increase your giving to St. Paul. Traditional Lenten Folders are available for you to collect quarters each day during the time of Lent. By Easter Sunday you will have collected \$10.00 to help in the ministries of St. Paul. Please consider taking up this "giving to" challenge. The folders will be available in the narthex beginning February 27.



MARCH 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																									
		1	2	3	4	5																									
			6:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship																												
6	7	8	9	10	11	12																									
10:00am Worship		9:30am Quilting	6:00 Lenten Mid- Week Meal 7:00pm Lent Mid- Week Worship at St. Paul	6:00pm Scouts																											
13	14	15	16	17	18	19																									
10:00am Worship	7:00pm Writer's Group	9:30am Quilting	7:00pm Lent Mid- Week Worship at CTK																												
20	21	22	23	24	25	26																									
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27	28	29	30	31																											
10:00am Worship Pastor Mackey on vacation		9:30am Quilting	7:00pm Lent Mid- Week Worship at CTK																												
<div><div>Worship Helper for March</div><div>Altar Guild: Bernadette and Keith Wellman</div><table><tr><th>Reader/Worship Assistant</th><th>Acolyte</th><th>Flowers</th><th>Candles</th><th>Bread Providers</th></tr><tr><td>3/6 Doug Korstanje</td><td>Jacob Hale</td><td>no flowers in Lent</td><td>Kelz</td><td>Conzett</td></tr><tr><td>3/13 Linda Schneider</td><td>DeLaney Utley</td><td></td><td></td><td>Arneson</td></tr><tr><td>3/20 David Stuart</td><td>Katie Dowis</td><td></td><td></td><td>Murray</td></tr><tr><td>3/27 Bernadette Wellman</td><td>Cameron May</td><td></td><td></td><td>Murray</td></tr></table></div>							Reader/Worship Assistant	Acolyte	Flowers	Candles	Bread Providers	3/6 Doug Korstanje	Jacob Hale	no flowers in Lent	Kelz	Conzett	3/13 Linda Schneider	DeLaney Utley			Arneson	3/20 David Stuart	Katie Dowis			Murray	3/27 Bernadette Wellman	Cameron May			Murray
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- 2 Benjamin Jones
- 4 Dan Betlyn
- 6 Amy Borowski
- 10 Larry Kendall
- 12 John Scott
- 14 Arlan Hesse
- 15 Riley Brumfield
- 16 Kevin Vickers
- 19 Bonnie Conger; Bernadette Wellman
- 27 James Case
- 31 Katie Dowis

21 Custer and Wilda Maynor

26 Tom and Starla Kisling



Please note that the price of flowers for the altar has increased from \$30 to \$35 per week. If you would like to sponsor altar flowers please sign up in the narthex.

If you would like to make a prayer request for yourself or someone else there are several ways you can do this:

Call the church office at 304-525-9630 and request a name to be put on the prayers that are read on Sunday morning.

Call the church office and request that a prayer email be sent out to the congregation

Request prayer on our Facebook page—"St. Paul Lutheran Congregation Group"

You may also email the church at secretary@stpaulhuntington.org



For the Month of March we will be collecting boxes of cereal for Cridlin Food and Clothing Pantry. Please place your items in the bin in the narthex.



BACK PACK SUPPLIES NEEDED!

Our supplies for the Backpack program are very low. We are especially in need of dinner items such as Spaghettios, ravioli, beefaroni, and mac and cheese.

Items should be in individually packaged containers and not contain any peanut products.

END OF YEAR
GIVING
STATEMENTS

Please contact Linda Schneider or the church office if you would like an end of giving statement.



St. Paul Confirmation class of 1939. David Becker is on the top right. Carl R. Plack was the pastor.

Photo submitted by Katherine Becker Mansourl.

From Judy Pease:

Thank you to my church family, for which I am so grateful, for your continuous prayers, cards, and call that have brought much love and sunshine into my day.

God Bless,
Judy



Daily Devotional
in your inbox



The readings listed below are sent to the congregation each day (Monday-Friday) by email. If you are not currently receiving the Daily Devotional and would like to please contact the church at secretary@stpaulhuntington.org with your email address.

READINGS FOR MARCH

February 28-March 4: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

March 7-11: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17—4:1; Luke 13:31-35

March 14-18: Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

March 21-25: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

721 12th Avenue
Huntington, WV 25701
304-525-9630



CONTACT INFORMATION

Reverend Kevin L. Mackey, pastor
pastor@stpaulhuntington.org
cell phone: 724-212-9393
Church office: 304-525-9630

Henning Vauth, Music Director
music@stpaulhuntington.org

Jill May, Youth Director
youth@stpaulhuntington.org

Kathy Mackey, secretary
secretary@stpaulhuntington.org

CHURCH COUNCIL 2022

Vice President, Jenny Murray

Treasurer, Andrew Wellman

Secretary, Bernadette Wellman

Financial Secretary, Linda Schneider

Assistant Financial Secretary, Annette DuVall

Linda Hay, Worship and Music

Carolyn Fornash, Christian Education

Doug Korstanje, Stewardship/Finance

Jenny Murray, Fellowship

Bernadette Wellman, Social Ministry

Kevin Knowles, Christian Education

Ron Pease, Property

Creigh Pemberton, Evangellism

Debbie Perkins, Fellowship

PRAYER VENTURES FOR MARCH 2022

1 *Women's History Month* Celebrate and give thanks for the achievements, influence, leadership, stories, gifts and faithful witness of women in our church and society throughout history. Pray for women who suffer injustice, demeaning stereotypes, violence and poverty, that they will cling to hope and be delivered from their suffering and persecution to live freely and boldly as loved and valued children of God.

2 *Ash Wednesday* On this day, let us approach God in prayer with humble and penitent hearts, marking ourselves with the ashes of our messy, fragile human lives yet doing so with the reassuring sign of the cross — the mark of Jesus Christ, our source of forgiveness, salvation, hope and new life.

3 Pray for our synod bishops and presiding bishop as they gather for the Conference of Bishops. Ask God to bless their time together for worship, study, building relationships and deliberating on how we can share the good news of Jesus Christ, serve our neighbor, strive for justice and peace, work alongside our global companions and grow the church.

4 Praise God, who is boundless, awesome, merciful, pure and attentive, and who loves justice and peace.

5 Remember in prayer refugees from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria who have been stuck at the Belarus-Poland border since last November; pray for the Lutheran Church in Belarus as it assists refugees with translation services, food, clothing, hygiene items and other essentials; and give thanks for the support and assistance we are able to provide through Lutheran Disaster Response.

6 Give thanks that we know Jesus as the son of God, who did not give in to worldly temptations of power or serving his own needs but humbled himself and demonstrated God's sacrificial love for the salvation and healing of humankind.

7 Pray for the work, advocacy and networks of ELCA Disability Ministry, and that our congregations and communities might, without hesitation, preconception or limitation, connect with and embrace people living with disabilities, inviting them into full participation in the life and leadership of the church and society.

8 *International Women's Day* Celebrate and give thanks to God for the gifts, influence and leadership of women and girls everywhere. Pray that we will continue to strive for a world free of bias and injustice, providing women and girls with equitable access to education, health care, work and opportunities to use their gifts in the church, our communities and our world.

9 Ask the Spirit to help us see beyond our weaknesses and self-doubt and confess with confidence our faith in the saving, life-giving love of Jesus Christ and the encouragement we receive from our siblings in Christ.

10 Give thanks that our church accompanies our global companions, working together to share God's love, respond to neighbors in need and participate in God's mission.

11 Lift up prayers of gratitude that God is our refuge and fortress, the one in whom we can trust in every circumstance, no matter how complicated or threatening.

12 During Lent, as we spend time reflecting on our human weakness and limitations, pray that we do not slip into discouragement or hopelessness but allow the Spirit to lead us toward the hope, forgiveness and newness we receive as a gift through Jesus Christ, the manifestation of God's enduring and redeeming love for us.

13 Give thanks for the humbling, awe-inspiring example of Jesus Christ, who persisted in his ministry and work of healing the world undeterred by criticism and death threats. Pray that the Spirit will inspire and embolden us to be committed and unwavering as we care for our neighbors in need, sharing our faith and spreading the life-changing good news of Jesus Christ.

14 Pray for the community ministries of congregations across the country that serve neighbors in need through community gardens, meals, food pantries, homeless shelters, counseling, disaster response, neighborhood renewal, day care for children and adults, educational opportunities and connecting volunteers with ecumenical partners and community organizations.

15 Pray that being siblings in Christ will inspire us to encourage and care for one another; equip each other to live our faith and serve our neighbor; strive for justice and peace in the world; trust each other with our joys, sorrows and questions; and gather together to praise God for claiming and restoring us as loved children with an eternal inheritance.

16 Our church has deep, long-standing relationships with Lutheran churches and partners around the world. Pray that we will grow stronger as a global church, receive one another's gifts and expertise, and support the growth and work of our companions, which includes urban and youth outreach, establishing new congregations, providing theological education, pursuing justice and peace, and training new leaders.

17 Thank God for our special relationship with the United Church of Christ, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1997. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, that together we will find strength and resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor, especially in these challenging times.

18 Ask God to remind us that we accomplish far more of God's work in the world by embracing relationships and partnerships with our siblings in Christ and others.

19 Pray for ELCA Global Mission personnel, Young Adults in Global Mission and seminary interns who accompany and support the work of our companion churches around the world, especially as they adapt to the changing needs, circumstances and opportunities in their respective countries during the lingering pandemic.

20 *First day of spring* Praise God for the wonders of creation and the signs of hope, life and renewal that emerge with spring.

21 Pray that our lives, relationships and behaviors might reflect God's patience and undeserved confidence in our capacity to change, grow and love as the Spirit works within us.

22 *World Water Day* God's gift of water — in all its forms — nourishes and sustains life and stirs awe and wonder. Pray that we will faithfully steward the water resources entrusted to our care and enjoyment. Pray that we will work together to conserve water, help those who lack access to clean water, take thoughtful action during droughts and do the work of cleaning up and protecting water that we have polluted or misused.

23 Give thanks for God's faithfulness, actions, teaching and example throughout the ages, which guide us to follow the word and desires of God, enrich our faith, and bear hope and the good news of Jesus Christ to all people.

24 Pray for ELCA missionaries serving alongside church bodies and companion organizations in Central America to train leaders; share the gospel; respond to poverty, hunger and violence; advocate for laws that respect the human rights and dignity of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers; and teach church leaders to care for victims of trauma.

25 "My mouth praises you with joyful lips when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to you" (Psalm 63:5-8). Thank God for being our ready help and refuge in every moment of our life.

26 Across the country, congregations and synods working with resettlement agencies are sponsoring individuals and families who have been evacuated from Afghanistan. Pray that the Spirit will guide our efforts to welcome, support and care for people who are resettling and adjusting to unfamiliar communities, neighbors and cultures. Give thanks for the challenging and essential work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Lutheran Services in America and the ELCA's AMMPARO strategy (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities).

27 Recall recent experiences — personal or witnessed — when God's grace far exceeded your expectations and comprehension. Lift up prayers of acknowledgment and gratitude to God.

28 Ask God to build up our resiliency, optimism, hope and confidence in God's presence when we feel anxious, overwhelmed or powerless in today's world.

29 Rejoice and give thanks to God for surrounding us with steadfast love and forgiveness that cannot be taken away or diminished by anyone or anything.

30 Remember in prayer poets who free us to see and contemplate in new ways the beauty and complexity of creation, diverse human experiences, challenging social conditions and our faith.

31 Pray for the leaders from across our church who serve on the ELCA Church Council. Ask the Spirit to guide them as they support, review, advise and enable God's work in the world with thoughtfulness, integrity, respect and partnerships sharing a common vision.