

LENT Lent LENT Lent

The Epistle

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Volume 21 Issue 3
March 2022

Lent: Depth Not Depression

Lent, the 40 days (and 6 Sundays) leading up to Easter, is the one of the most important seasons of the Church calendar. Beginning on Ash Wednesday (a day in which we are reminded of our own mortality), Lent is based on the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness being tempted by the devil. As such, Lent has traditionally included the disciplines of fasting, almsgiving, prayer, and a focus on repentance, all while keeping our eyes focused on the Cross of Good Friday.

These are wonderful traditions of great importance to the Christian life. However, many Christians have come to greet these traditions, and the whole season of Lent, begrudgingly or apathetically. This is due, in no small part, to the fact that such activities have been misused, abused, and misunderstood by many in the Church.

As such these disciplines, *fasting and repentance especially*, have become for many a burden, an annoyance, or far worse: a cause of terrible guilt and shame. This is not the purpose! Fortunately, as a professor of mine, Fr. Joseph, put it, "The Church used the guilt machine for years but it finally broke down. Thank God!"

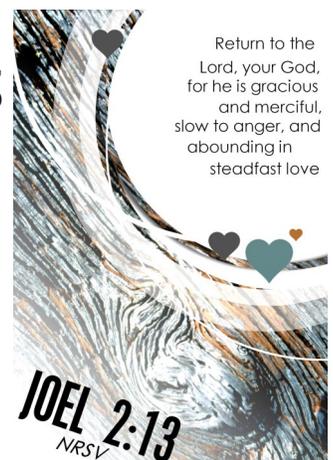
Going into Lent 2022 let us remember:

1. You don't have to do any of these things...you get to if you so choose.
2. We repent our sins and ask for God's forgiveness not to wallow in shame but because we know that our God is merciful and gracious...and yes, we can do better.
3. If we fast, we fast from things not to punish ourselves but to remind ourselves the lengths to which God in the person of Jesus Christ sacrificed for us. In fasting we imitate Christ in one way, in order to become more like him in all ways. For in doing so we can, by God's grace, we become evermore the people we are called in our Baptisms to be.

Most importantly, we look forward to the Cross not to find guilt and sadness but to see our Lord God in the true form he desired to be made known to the world, through His ultimate sacrifice, an act of unparalleled love.

This year remember we journey through Lent, not to be depressed by our faith, but to root deeper in it.

Yours in Christ, *Pastor Tony*





Council Notes

The Church Council met on February 17th. Here are some highlights of the meeting:

The council met by both Zoom and in-person, but most were on Zoom. The first item of business was to approve continuing resolutions (CR) concerning committee structure. The CR's defined activities for constitution designated committees and set up a more informal coordinator structure for the other "committees" in the church. Being CR's, a 2/3 vote by council was required and the vote was unanimous.

Powerhouse Electric was selected to install 3 LED open can lights with new photo control at the main entrance with funds (maximum \$1500) to be drawn from capital improvements.

It was decided to have cake and cupcake refreshments supplied by the fellowship committee following the Baptisms on Sunday Feb. 27, given the covid situation in the county is quickly improving. The St. Paul Reopening group will be recalled to meet soon to define and develop plans on how to return to what may be the new normal in our hopefully post pandemic society.

It was also approved to permit a couple from outside St. Paul to have their wedding conducted here on April 23. Fees and responsibilities for cleanup were included in the discussion.

The 125th Anniversary year of St. Paul was discussed further. Congregation members are beginning to step up to coordinate and plan activities for this year with a possible event in September or October being considered.

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation was held February 27, 2022.

The business was very routine and the main item was the elections to the Congregational Council and to the Nominating committee.

Elected to council were Mary Haas and Grethe Myles and re-elected was Steven Woodruff.

In addition, Carol Henry, Sally Kirkpatrick, and Tamara Riegel were elected to the Nominating committee for the 2023 election cycle. Note that the election to the Nominating committee by the congregation is required by our constitution and is new this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Woodruff





Ash Wednesday, March 2nd

Services at 7:30 AM, Noon, and 7:00 PM



March	Lay Leader	Zoom
9	J. Lemasters	S. Setley
16	T. Riegel	M. Boroff
23	S. Woodruff	C. Werntz
30	M. Haas	S. Setley

For All Elementary Age Students

9:00 AM

- March 13—Theme: St. Patrick
- April 10—Theme: Palm Sunday
- May 22—Theme: Ascension
- June 5—Theme: Pentecost



Many thanks to Grethe Myles and her sister Lisa for hanging the Confirmation photos in the lounge. Come look and take a trip down memory lane.



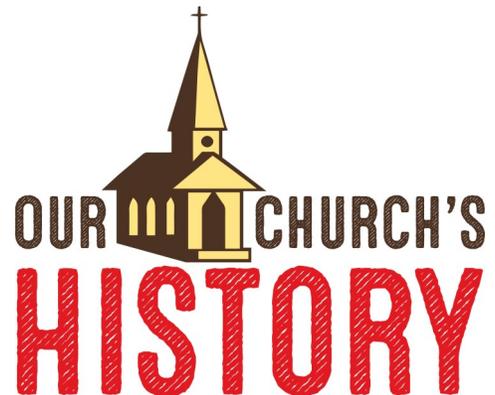
Many thanks are due to the property committee, Bill Graham and Larry Springer, who are always taking care of tasks small and large around the building. Larry especially has been taking care of small jobs and doing some straightening and cleaning.



Bathrooms	Nancy Goerlich
Kitchen	Naumann
Stairwells	Sylvia McEwuen
Vacuum and Sweep Upstairs	Kim Shockley
Sweep Downstairs	

We need your photos and memories!

This year St. Paul celebrates its 125th Anniversary as a congregation. The church history is woefully lacking in noted events since 1962 when the last history was compiled. While Council minutes are a record of church business, it's dry reading. An update is envisioned to include photos (weddings, Baptisms, socials, VBS, special projects, etc.), newspaper clippings and ephemera that has been stashed away by the congregation. The items can be recent or decades old and should include names and dates. Items can be sent to the church office or emailed digitally to grethemyles76@mac.com.





Moving

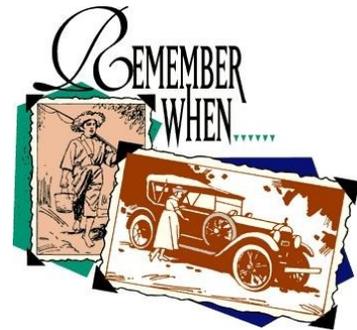
Earl and Cece Melby will move to Ohio in March, to be closer to family. They will be much missed.

Contact the church office for a new address.

We have a duplicate confirmation class photo for 1988.

Would anyone like to have it?

Confirmands pictured are: James Bouquot, Michelle Daley, Peter Groce, Jason Knauf, Beth Moll, Eva Spens, and Jeffrey Wienke.



From the Piece Makers

February is a short month, but we have been lucky to have good weather. We gather on Fridays from 10 until 2. Please come and join us. We can use your help. People throughout the world need the quilts and receive them through Lutheran World Relief. We also remember people in our area and synod who have needs or face unexpected problems. No need to know about how to quilt to be a member as we divide the tasks and can teach you one or more of the necessary skills. Many of our past members knew nothing about quilting when they joined the Piece Makers. One of our greatest pleasures is to make quilts for those who are baptized at St. Paul.



Quilts given at the baptisms on February 27th

TREASURER'S REPORT: JANUARY 2022

OFFERING AND INCOME: \$ 14,819

EXPENSES: \$ 15,988

NET INCOME – JAN. 2022 \$ -1,169



REMINDER: If you are unable to attend worship in person, offering envelopes may be mailed to the church!

St. Paul Lutheran Church
309 Baldwin Street
Morgantown, WV 26505

Date	
March 6	Tamara
March 13	Mary
March 20	Jeanne
March 27	MaryLee



If you are receiving duplicates of the newsletter via email, please notify the church office at office@stpaulmorgantown.org.

Serving in



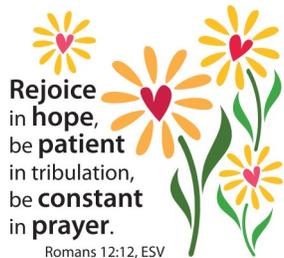
SERVING ST PAUL March 2022	LAY ASSISTANT	LECTOR	USHERS	ACOLYTES	COUNTERS	ZOOM
6th 10:00 AM	S. Woodruff	T. Riegel	L. Springer	****	D. Stiles M. Peters	M. & J. Peters
13th 10:00 AM	M. Sampson	S. Kirkpatrick	W.Graham	E. Naumann	****	M. Boroff
20th 10:00 AM	M. Haas	S. McEwuen	T. Riegel	N. Sandolfini	S. Kirkpatrick S. Woodruff	S. Setley
27th 10:00 AM	J. Lemasters	M. Kirkpatrick	D. Custer	S. Sandolfini	****	C. Wertz

Reminder: Deadline for April newsletter is March 23rd!!!



MARCH 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 8:15 AM Prayerful Walkers 10:00 AM Bible Study	2 Ash Wednesday Services at 7:30 AM Noon 7:00 PM	3	4 10:00 AM Piecemakers	5
6 10:00 AM Worship Service	7	8 8:15 AM Prayerful Walkers 10:00 AM Bible Study	9 6:30 PM Choir 7:30 PM Vespers	10	11 10:00 AM Piecemakers	12
13 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service	14	15	16 6:30 PM Choir 7:30 PM Vespers	17 7:00 PM Council	18 10:00 AM Piecemakers	19
20 10:00 AM Worship Service	21	22 8:15 AM Prayerful Walkers 10:00 AM Bible Study	23 6:30 PM Choir 7:30 PM Vespers	24	25 10:00 AM Piecemakers	26
27 10:00 AM Worship Service	28 8:00 AM Lutheran Men in Mission	29 8:15 AM Prayerful Walkers 10:00 AM Bible Study	30 6:30 PM Choir 7:30 PM Vespers			



To add a name to the prayer list, please call the office at 304-599-0620. There is also a book for prayer requests in the narthex (entry).

Please check the prayer list for names which you have submitted, and let the church office know if a person can be taken off the list. Thank you!



Tuesday — Thursday 10am - 12pm
 Pastor's office phone: (304) 212-5116
 Pastor's cell (text or call): 681-209-6192
 Email: pastor@stpaulmorgantown.org

The **Epistle** is a publication from:
 St. Paul Lutheran Church, Morgantown, WV
 The Rev. Tony Setley, pastor
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 Telephone: (304) 599-0620
 Pastor's Office Hours:
 Tuesday - Thursday 10 AM—Noon

Officers Of The Congregation
 President: Steve Woodruff
 Vice President: Mary Boroff
 Secretary: Joanne Seasholtz
 Treasurer: vacant
 Financial Secretary: Jeanne Lemasters

Council Members

Mary Haas	Grethe Myles	Carol Henry
Lindsey Naumann	Steve Woodruff	Joanne Seasholtz
Julie Sandolfini	Jerry Bouquot	Mike Peters