

STPAULNOW

March 2025

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
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StPaulNow.org

† LENT

— 40 Days Of Renewal —

Ash Wednesday (March 5) - Easter (April 20)

from Pr. Steve

Pastor's phone: (614) 530-1011 Email: pastorsteve@stpaulnow.org

Worship Services streamed live (Sundays, 10:00 AM) and videos are posted at stpaulnow.org and on Facebook, later in the day.

What is Lent, and what is it for?

Lent is one of the seasons of the church year. The word *Lent* is derived from the Old English *lencten*, describing the lengthening days of spring, when (in the northern hemisphere) light increasingly dispels darkness, warmth gradually replaces cold, and life overcomes death. In the church year, Lent is the forty weekdays between Ash Wednesday and Easter. Just as Lent is a season of renewal in nature, Christians have long seen it also as a **season of spiritual rededication and renewal** in preparation for the great celebration of Christ's victory at Easter.

One traditional way of observing the season is to deny oneself some pleasurable thing, especially if it is related to a habit, like cutting out of the diet caffeine, chocolate, sugar, meat, or some other favorite food. Giving up something related to a bodily craving may seem very far from a spiritual discipline, but any exercise that helps us gain control over appetites rather than be controlled by them is a worthy Lenten discipline.

My pastoral teaching is that if you do give up something for Lent, you can allow it to yourself on Sundays, because Sundays are not counted as days of Lent. They are always a celebration of Christ's resurrection, a time for feasting, because it was on Sunday, the first day of the week, that Jesus rose from the tomb.

The rhythm of self denial and celebration can help us learn spiritual control over bodily appetites, and also reminds us that our standing with the Lord is not based on our willpower, but on his victory over sin and death. It also can remind us to put more emphasis on higher spiritual disciplines every day of the season, like spending more time in worship and prayer (both public and private), more time studying the Holy Scriptures, giving more generously, and putting more energy into loving our neighbors, according to their need.

May this blessed season of rededication and renewal help you more fully experience God's strong grace in your daily life.



Ash Wednesday

March 5, 11:15 AM, 5:00 PM, 7:00 PM

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Choose one of these three simple services, each about thirty minutes in length.

Begin your Lenten pilgrimage with the mark of the holy cross, by which we are saved and restored to fellowship with God.

Lenten Soup Suppers and Bible Study

on Lenten Wednesdays 6:30 PM - 7:45 PM

Mar 12, Mar 19, Mar 26, Apr 2, Apr 9

Join us for this series or any part of it.

Strengthen your spiritual life with the Word of God and fellowship with other believers.

Bible study theme

Prayer and Commandment:

Conversation with God.

Some of the questions we'll deal with:

- What if I'm praying for something I'm not totally sure is a really righteous thing—should I ask for it anyway?
- Does God hear prayers from everyone equally, or are there some people God listens to more than others?
- What should I do when God doesn't seem to hear me?
- Sometimes I wonder if God is really there—should I still pray at such a time?
- When God hears us, does he expect something in return?
- Is there a special way God wants us to talk to him?
- There are times when I feel I would like to pray, but can't think of anything to say—is it okay to read a prayer someone has written?
- **Any question you have about prayer.**



February Council meeting

Regular meeting, February 11, 6:30 PM

Present: Thomas Bathke (Chairman), Howard Radel (Vice Chairman), Sondra Carey (Secretary), Terry Roberts (Treasurer), Mary Kay Disterdick, Steve Kirk, Terri Roberts.

Council took the following actions:

- Approved the January reports of the Treasurer and Secretary. As Pr. Steve was on vacation, his January report will be combined with his February report at Council's March 11 meeting.
- Authorized Chairman Tom Bathke to procure a plumber to test our water line backflow valve as required by Cardington.
- Approved payment to supply preachers who served during pastor's vacation.
- Discussed possible ways to more effectively invite new people to our services and activities.
- Discussed need to replace green paraments, which are frayed; tabled the issue until March Council meeting.

Community Youth Group for grades 6-12

on the third Sunday each month, 6:30 to 8:00 PM, at the Tomorrow Center gym. Meetings feature music, devotions, snacks, and games. This is a cooperative community ministry supported by Cardington Church of the Nazarene, Community Methodist Church, and our congregation.

Next meeting: Sunday, March 16, 6:30 PM

Tomorrow Center Gymnasium

3700 County Road 168, Cardington 43315

Community Vacation Bible School, 2025



dates to be announced soon

At Camp Chaos, kids will learn how Jesus is our path to peace in a chaotic world. In the external mess we live in, Jesus helps us focus on what's good.

This VBS is a cooperative community ministry sponsored by Cardington area churches, including St. Paul.

If you would like to help, contact Judy Graham or Pr. Steve, or just show up at our first planning meeting on Thursday, March 13, 4:30 PM here at St. Paul.

Cardington Food Pantry Needs

March: Evaporated milk, sweet milk, powdered milk.

Featured donations for the months ahead:

April: Boxed scalloped potatoes, Hamburger Helper

May: Cans of soup, fruit, or vegetables

All months: cereal, flour, meals in a can (e.g., spaghetti, beef stew), soup, white and brown sugar, salt/pepper.

Monetary donations can also be mailed to Cardington Food Pantry, P.O. Box 168, Cardington OH 43315.



Happy March Birthday

6 Barbie Cargill	16 Bentley Brandyberry	23 Thomas Potter
9 Sondra Carey	17 Aaden Brandyberry	25 Lonnie Stakey
12 Patty Kirk	19 Janice Burch	26 Rhianne Baer
14 Ellie Carey	21 Philip Wuertz	Owen Carey
15 Alina Babb	Molly Whittington	29 Warren Cargill
	22 Mason Storbeck	31 Tim Ullom

Please let us know if we miss anyone.

Treasurer's Report for January 2025

FUNDS	BALANCE 12/31/2024	INCOME January	EXPENSES January	BALANCE 1/31/2025
General Fund	\$14,122.36	\$10,134.68	\$12,366.33	\$11,890.71
Committed Funds				
Benevolence Fund ¹	\$4,261.08	\$ 375.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,636.08
Richard Renz Fund	\$ 3,173.46	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,173.46
Funeral Fund	\$ 1,154.22	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,154.22
Christian Education Fund ²	\$ 379.26	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 379.26
Memorial Fund	\$ 8,179.31	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 8,179.31
Building Fund	\$ 9,976.50	\$ 745.00	\$ 0.00	\$10,721.50
Total Committed Funds	\$27,123.83	\$ 1,120.00	\$ 0.00	\$28,243.83
Total Funds (General + Committed)	\$41,246.19	\$11,254.68	\$12,366.33	\$40,134.54

National Quilting Day for

Lutheran World relief is March 15. As noted in the November NL, the Lord's Stitchers sent 104 quilts to LWR in 2024. Interestingly, 370,818 quilts were delivered in 16 countries. If interested, a posting indicating the 16 countries and the number of quilts distributed to each is posted at the east end of the Fellowship Room.



Women's Bible Study

Continues to meet on Wednesdays, 10:00 AM at the church, through March 23, completing a study of the Ten Commandments. Even if you have not attended yet, it's not too late to get in on the fellowship.



Daylight Savings Time begins

Sunday, March 9, so don't forget to set your clocks **ahead** 1 hour before retiring for the night Saturday.

March Worship Leaders

March 2 Communion

Set up	Server
Marie Christiano	Mark Niendam

Accompanists	Acolytes
2 Judy Moore	2 TBA
9 Emilee McCabe	9 TBA
16 Emilee McCabe	16 TBA
23 Emilee McCabe	23 TBA
30 Emilee McCabe	30 TBA

Lectors	Prayer Leaders
2 Charlene Pace	2 Charlene Pace
9 Donna Bathke	9 Donna Bathke
16 Marlene Radel	16 Marlene Radel
23 Sondra Carey	23 Sondra Carey
30 Judy Himler	30 Judy Himler

Ushers

2 Jeff Radel and Tom Bathke
9 Bob Dutt, Jr. and Lonnie Stakey
16 Howard Radel and Jay Burns
23 Charlie Seitz and Don Keil
30 Bob Dutt, Jr. and Jeff Radel