



**On Thursday, January 25, 2018 the delegates of Long Island Lutheran voted that LuDay, our beloved school partner, will close at the end of this academic year.** Since this church's early beginnings, ministry to our youth and our young people has been a high priority. In 1969, the leaders of this church took the bold move of purchasing what was known at the time as the "Vernon Valley Inn" – the building across the parking lot that now houses the school. After renovating the building into a school, in 1972 St. Paul's opened a nursery preschool. Less than 10 years later, seeing the needs of the community, the preschool was expanded and in 1981, the elementary school opened. This continued for nearly 30 more years.

As we all know, time keeps moving forward and life is always changing. With the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and some of the events of the early 2000s – September 11<sup>th</sup>, the economic downturn of 2008, and some internal parish difficulties – running the Day School became more difficult for St. Paul's. It was at that time, that a progressive, bold, and risky solution was proposed. Instead of abandoning the mission of the school and giving up, the leadership of St. Paul's approached Long Island Lutheran High School to see if there was interest in taking over the school. Seeing the number of students from St. Paul's who left here and attended LuHi, and desiring the opportunity to expand their own ministry – in 2010 St. Paul's and LI Lutheran entered into this partnership and agreement to continue to offer quality Christian education here in Northport.

So what happened? The decision to close the school is in no way a reflection on the quality of the school and its programs, nor its teachers and staff. I firmly believe that this change is a direct result of the changes in environment that surrounded the school. LuDay is located in the midst of some excellent school districts where families pay very high taxes. Paying tuition on top of taxes is becoming more and more of a challenge in this Long Island economy. The biggest challenge however, and the one that could not be overcome was the decision by the Northport School District at the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year to offer full day Kindergarten. Leading up to that year, LuDay averaged nearly 50 Kindergarten students. In the aftermath of that change, over the past three years, LuDay has averaged a little over 15 students. Currently, there are 11 Kindergartners. When I came here to be the pastor of St. Paul's, the total enrollment at LuDay was 246 students. Today, nearly 5 years later, the total enrollment is 129.

It would be easy for us to sit in sadness and dwell on the past. We can analyze how we got to where we are like an endless autopsy. But, as the Baptized children of God, we are called to be people who look forward and not backward. We are people of Easter, not Good Friday! When the waters that surround the church change and become stormy, we look to the Lord to lead us and calm the waters. In a world broken by sin, change is inevitable. Life brings death. Yet, when change occurs and trouble arises – God speaks clearly.




So where do we go from here? Change presents opportunity. As long as we trust in the Lord to lead us and we are still and listen, eventually the path will become clear. Presently, we are supporting the current LuDay parent movement that is evaluating the possibility of opening a new school entity in the Fall. If that does not come to fruition we will be exploring other uses for the property. Maybe we can be an extension of the Lutheran Counseling Center or Lutheran Social Services. Maybe there's a mission to seniors that we can develop. Maybe we can become an English as a Second Language site. Maybe there is something that you have been moved by that you can inspire us and others to consider.

It's always sad when a chapter in life comes to end. But when one book ends, there is always the opportunity to pick a new one up. For us as the children of God, we read from the greatest author of all! Just as the story did not end on Good Friday, nor does this chapter end our book! In God's time and in God's way – as we listen carefully – God will call us and lead us in the direction that we need to go!

~ *Pastor Schenkel*

*(Adapted from the sermon for the Fourth Sunday of Epiphany, January 28, 2018)*

# March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Third Week of Lent 8:30, 10 & 5	5	6	7  Noon & 5:30pm	8	9	10
11 Fourth Week of Lent 8:30, 10 & 5	12	13	14  Noon & 5:30pm	15	16	17
18 Fifth Week of Lent 8:30, 10 & 5	19	20	21  Noon & 5:30pm	22	23	24
25 Palm Sunday 8:30 & 10 Communion 11:30	26	27	28	29 Maundy Thursday Noon & 8pm	30 Good Friday Noon & 8pm	31 Easter Vigil 7:30pm

*Easter Sunday - April 1*

*Sunrise Service in Northport Village*

*Main Sanctuary Services at 8:30AM, 10:00AM & 11:30AM*

## GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY MARCH 4 AT 10:00AM!

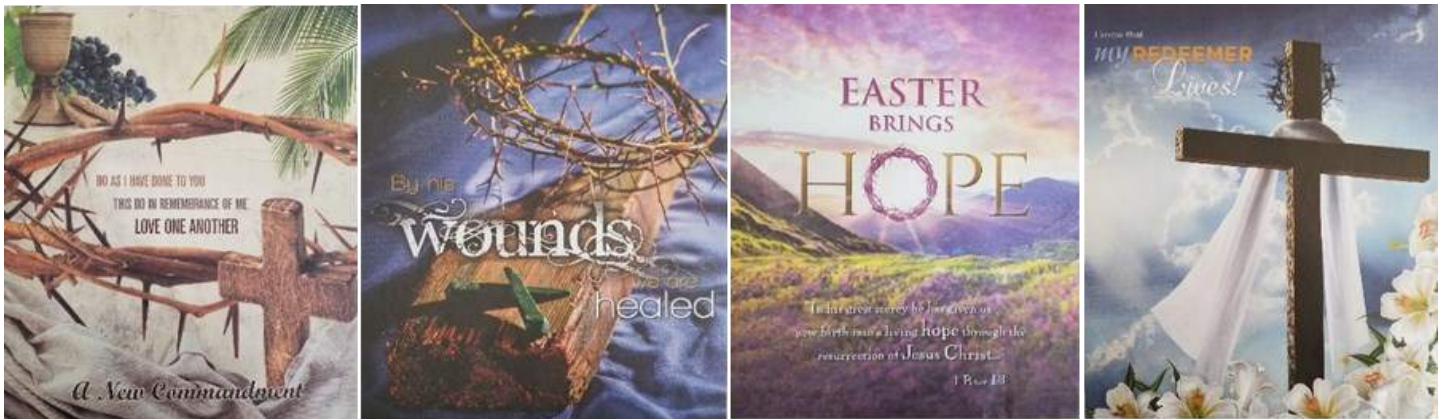


We had nearly 50 Boy Scouts join us on Scout Sunday—now it's the girls' turn! **Join us at the 10AM service on March 4** for Girl Scout Sunday. St. Paul's will be ordering patches so let Jill know if you will be attending, [jillstpauls@gmail.com](mailto:jillstpauls@gmail.com). This is open to girls from all Service Units so please extend the invite to neighboring towns and friends! Wear your vest or sash. If you would like to lead a flag ceremony, hand out bulletins or help with a reading, please let Jill know!

We're encountering all different types of road signs as we travel through the Lenten Season. We've taken **UTURNS** - for those times in our lives when we realize we have to switch the road we're on and head in a new or different direction. We've **STOPPED**, paused and reflected upon what really matters in this frenetic paced world and our daily lives. We'll be **MERGING** the divine and human on Wednesday, February 28th. Join us as we continue our midweek Lenten Services at Noon and 5:30pm. See the calendar on the prior page.



Would you like to dedicate a special message to someone in one of our service folders? We have them for Maundy Thursday, Easter Vigil and Confirmation!  
 Contact Bill in the Church Office to place your order, 631.754.4422.



Stephen Ministry is the one-to-one lay caring ministry that takes place in congregations that use the Stephen Series system. Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. St. Paul's is currently training 11 people to become Stephen ministers. Look for a weekly update on what they are learning and words of inspiration in the parish news. For any questions or more information please contact Pastor Pryer, Barbara Gai, or Debbie Peltz at [stpaulsstephenministry@googlegroups.com](mailto:stpaulsstephenministry@googlegroups.com).

With great thanks and appreciation to our Thrivent members who directed their choice dollars to St. Paul's Lutheran, we received \$1,173 in charitable outreach funding in 2017. If you haven't directed your choice dollars yet you can do so through March 31. If you would like to know if you have choice dollars to exercise you can go online to [www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call Thrivent at 1.800.847.4836 and say Thrivent Choice.



## VBS SUMMER CAMP

JUNE 25th - 29th

9:00am - 12:00pm

Come rafting with us! This year's summer adventure will have us rafting down the river rapids! We will find adventure, joy, rest, peace and acceptance during our voyage. There will be registration forms in the Narthex and Church Office as well as online at [www.StPaulsEastNorthport.org](http://www.StPaulsEastNorthport.org). This program is free so grab some friends and join us!

**FROM 3YRS - 13YRS & OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND!**

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Lenten Fair - 3/11

The more hands the better! If you would like to help (teens and up!) let us know.

Last Supper - 3/25

Not to be missed—the Sunday School children will prepare and serve it!

April 1 - No Class - Happy Easter!

Last Class - 5/20



### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

There will be a special service for the First Holy Communicants on Palm Sunday, March 25th at 11:30am. We will celebrate with cake in the Fellowship Room immediately following the Service and the communicants will be given their certificates then!

### CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL & SERVICE



The rehearsal dinner for the Confirmands and their families, will be held on Friday, May 18 at 6:00pm. We will run through the Service, distribute robes and end the evening sharing a meal together. Our Confirmation Service will be on Sunday, May 20 at 11:30am.



Passover is the most important Biblical holiday for Christians. The final days of Jesus' life on His way to the cross and empty tomb centered around the Passover. But what is the Passover? Is it still relevant for us as Christians?

On **Monday, March 26th at 6PM** we will partake in our own Passover meal. Our time together will explain the elements of the Passover meal shared by Jesus and His Apostles and make connections to our sacred meal today—the Lord's Supper.

To join us for this meal, please respond by Monday, March 19. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate drop-ins as a special place and plate will be made for each person attending. RSVP to Marianne Winthrop at 631.757.7498 or mairteri@yahoo.com.

HOLD THE DATE  
MUSIC SUNDAY JUNE 10TH

Write the date on your calendar and dust off that sheet music! Good music and good food! So-o-o, we welcome all participants ~ solos and groups, accordions to zithers. Let the planning begin!



The next Peanut Butter  
&  
Jelly Gang will be on  
Sunday, April 15.

## SAVE THE DATE!

SETTING APART OF SYNODICALLY  
ROSTERED DEACONS  
SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2018

Please come support Deborah Peltz as she is set apart as a synodical deacon in the Metropolitan Synod. She was called at the February Congregational meeting to serve as a deacon at St. Paul's. Her primary areas of ministry will be Stephen Ministry and Music & Worship. A special service for her commissioning, will be held at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 11 Ogden Ct. in Huntington Station on April 14 at 2:00pm. If interested in attending, please email Debbie at dap819@gmail.com or let the Church Office know.

*Women's Communion  
Breakfast*

Save the date, Saturday, April 21st at 9:00am. The breakfast this year will benefit The Children's Ward at St. Charles Hospital in Port Jefferson.





### SOUL FOOD

Have you ever noticed on your way in or out of the Narthex, we have an assortment of seasonal Christian items offered? They are on the shelves against the wall. You may take them free of charge or you can leave a free will offering if you'd like. Check out the Lenten-Easter display next time you pass through!



### ST. PAUL'S TOTE BAGS!

We are so happy to announce that we will be giving out our new tote bags on Sunday, March 11! We hope it comes in handy the next time you're headed out to the store!

## CHECK IT OUT!!

AGNES' ATTIC is great if you're looking to supplement your wardrobe or for that one-time piece you may need to complete an outfit. They also have a variety of home goods. The best thing is the excellent customer service. The ladies that work there are amazing, they're the members of our congregation. **The Attic is open on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10AM-2PM.**



From apparel to home goods to accessories!



**GRAB THOSE SHOES AND BRING THEM IN FOR THE 9TH ANNUAL  
SOLES4SOULS SHOE DRIVE MARCH 1-31**



Since Soles4Souls began in 2006, they have distributed over 30 million pairs of shoes in 127 countries in all 50 states! Do you have shoes that are tired of being stuck in the closet? You can share them with those who don't have any. The children need shoes to get to school or to walk miles for water. Adults use them to go to work. Any shoes; boots, sandals, heels are all needed. There is a bin in the Narthex to drop them off.



**KINDNESS IN GIVING CREATES LOVE - LAO TZU**

**St. Paul's Missions Support**

Through the gifts of your weekly/monthly offerings to St. Paul's, our congregation has been able to provide support to various mission efforts both locally and worldwide. During the past year some of our mission gifts were provided to the following organizations:

**Feeding the Hungry (Local)** - Northport-East Northport Ecumenical Lay Council Food Pantry, Long Island Cares (the Harry Chapin Food Bank), Interfaith Nutrition Network, the Peanut Butter and Jelly Ministry and the LuHi Meal Packing Project.

**Homeless Outreach** - Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative (HIHI) via the Family Service League.

**Housing for Needy Families (Local)** - Habitat for Humanity (Suffolk), Lutheran Social Services of NY.

**ELCA Disaster Assistance** - For victims of Hurricane Matthew, Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma.

**Food for the Poor** - Our combined contributions over 2 years enabled us to purchase a house for a needy Honduran family (\$3,600).

In addition, St. Paul's was able to provide support to an ELCA Missionary working in a Lutheran High School in Japan.

Your generosity has enabled us to share the Light of Christ not only with the people of Long Island but throughout the world.

Thank you so much!



Our congregation approved a motion for the following people to serve as Council Members for three year terms, beginning on July 1, 2018: **Paul Beebee, Pamela Dayton, Nancy Freeman, Will Growvogel and Cassidy Kirby.** We look forward to them taking office!



### NYS INTERIM BISHOP



**THE REV. DONALD J. MCCOID** is a native of Wheeling, West Virginia and is married to Saundra Piisila McCoid. They have two married daughters, Kimberly Maravich and Elizabeth Kilpatrick.

Bishop Emiritus McCoid served as the Bishop of the ELCA's Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod from 1987 until September, 2007. He served congregations in Monessen, PA; Pittsburgh and Latrobe, PA. He served as the Assistant to the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA from 2007 through 2016 and as the Executive for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations.

He has traveled extensively for ecumenical work in Asia, Africa, and Europe. McCoid served as the President of the National Association of Ecumenical Officers. He met with three Popes, the Ecumenical Patriarch and two of the Archbishops of Canterbury. For further information, [mnys.org](http://mnys.org).

### ST. PAUL'S PRAYER CHAIN

"What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer," words we often sing on a Sunday morning. For the members of the Prayer Chain it is our privilege to pray for you, your family, neighbors or friends. When a prayer is requested, I pass it along to several people who pray and then pass the request along to someone else. Most of us keep a prayer journal so we will continue to pray for those people until we hear how they are doing. Prayers can be for healing, comfort, God's peace or thanksgiving. We don't need to know the details. God knows who we are praying for and will answer according to his will.

Our group began in 1984 and many of us are charter members. We would love to have you join us. It only takes a few minutes to pray. There are no meetings or dues, just the satisfaction that you are serving the Lord. If you are interested, please call or email Grace Black at 631-757-7304 or [blackkl39@verizon.net](mailto:blackkl39@verizon.net).

### COUNSELING RESOURCE AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS

The Congregation Council leaders approved participation as an association church of the Lutheran Counseling Center. This excellent program makes it possible for St. Paul's members to get professional faith-based therapy at a reduced rate. The center also provides quality mental health seminars for youth groups, parents and senior groups. Cost to the congregation is \$600. for the year. The Lutheran Counseling Center will see any member, couple or family of St. Paul's for a maximum of four visits for a nominal fee of \$25. per session. The standard fee ranges from \$65.-\$80. a session. For further inquiries, please call 516.741.0994.