

St. Paul Partners

A Publication of
St. Paul Lutheran Church

MARCH 2022

volume 35 • number 9

Sponsored by Marie Scronce

In View of God's Mercy

St. Paul writes: *"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone."* (1 Corinthians 12:4-6)

Dear St. Paul Family,

Lent is a season of solemnity and reflection. The color of the season is purple which symbolizes this. It is a season where we acknowledge Jesus has been transfigured on the mountaintop and has now come down the mountain where with the disciples, he is making his way to Jerusalem where he will face arrest, Pontius Pilate, crucifixion and death. The scripture we will be hearing in worship takes us through this journey. For us it is a season of opportunity, an opportunity to take a look at our lives in view of the cross and to see it as an act of God's mercy toward us. Jesus helps us to see the richness of God's mercy in his life, death and resurrection.

To guide us in this opportunity this year, our Lenten theme will be ***"In View of God's Mercy."*** We will have Holden Evening Prayer services each Wednesday evening at 6 which will focus on scripture and the themes of Temptation, Suffering, Betrayal, Relationships and Service. This year we are part of a round-robin with Sardis Lutheran in Hickory, Old St. Paul Lutheran in Newton and Beth Eden Lutheran in Newton. This means we pastors will take turns rotating to the different churches to preach. The schedule for that is found elsewhere in this newsletter.

This is a time for prayer, confession and spiritual growth. I look forward to being with you during this special time of year as we put our mission into practice to ***Witness, Welcome, Worship and Work*** in the name of our Lord.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Ralph

Inside This Issue

Pastor's Article.....	1
Lenten Schedule	2
Birthdays & Anniversaries.....	3
News & Announcements.....	4
Council Notes	7
Ash Wednesday.....	8

OUR LENTEN SCHEDULE

All Evening Prayer Services are on Sunday evenings at 6:00PM in the church sanctuary

Sunday March 6th – Mercy in Ashes – Pastor Ralph preaches

Sunday March 13th – Mercy in Betrayal – Pastor Bill Hollar of Sardis Lutheran preaches

Sunday March 20th – Mercy in Suffering – Pastor Marcus Ollis of Beth Eden Lutheran preaches

Sunday March 27th – Mercy in Relationship – Pastor Andrew Miller of Old St. Paul preaches

Sunday April 3rd – Mercy in Service – Pastor Ralph preaches



Congregational Care

Our Christian sympathy and hope in the resurrection is extended to the family of Mrs. Gayle Jarrett who passed away on January 9th. Her service was held at St. Paul officiated by Pastor Ralph on Thursday January 13th. Memorials may be made to St. Paul Lutheran Church, 3761 Startown Rd., Newton, NC 28658.

Our Christian sympathy and hope in the resurrection is extended to the family of Mr. Sam Herman who passed away unexpectedly on Friday January 14th. Sam was the grandson of St. Paul members Rayford and Linda Herman. A private burial service was held.

Our Christian sympathy and hope in the resurrection is extended to the family of Mrs. Evie Geneva Reinhardt Warlick who passed away on February 11th. She was our oldest member at age 97. Her funeral service was held at St. Paul's on Saturday February 19th officiated by Pastor Ralph. Memorials may be made to St. Paul Lutheran Church, 3761 Startown Rd., Newton, NC 28658.

Our Christian sympathy and hope in the resurrection is extended to the family of Mrs. Carolyn Banks Wilfong who passed away December 2020. A memorial service was held on Sunday February 20th at St. Martin Lutheran Church in Maiden, NC. Carolyn grew up at St. Paul's.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Ann Hass has moved to Trinity Village. Her address is: Ann Hass, c/o Trinity Village, Room 1006, 11265 21st St., NE, Hickory, NC 28601. Phone: 828-404-3174. Ann would love to receive calls, cards and visits whenever possible.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SAVANNAH LAIL who has been named a Summa Cum Laude Graduate at Maiden High School.

MARCH

Birthdays

March 2	Margaret Bowman Jonathan Jarrett
March 10	Patty Burris River Jarrett
March 13	Johnnie Fulbright Savannah Lail
March 14	Keith Frye
March 20	Noah Lindemann
March 22	Gail Blackburn
March 28	John Warren
March 29	Robin Fincannon

MARCH

Anniversaries

March 11	Harold & Brenda Detter
March 24	Brad & Barbara Arrowood
March 31	Doug & Nancy Brady

Did We Miss Your Birthday or Anniversary?

If so, please accept our apologies!
Let us know so we can make it right by calling
(828) 464-3853 or email
morgan@stpaulstartown.org



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

CONTINUING OPPORTUNITIES

On the Bulletin Board in the hallway outside the Church Office are some rather blank sheets. They show the opportunities for you to share your desire to serve as a Worship Assistant from now through April. Whether you want to use your hands or feet or head in service during our worship time together, there are plenty of dates open. Don't forget: there are many who are willing and anxious to share the experience with you, as well as written training materials. You read your own Bible – why not read aloud at the Lectern? You carry your groceries into your home – why not carry the Cross, leading us in to Worship and out to serve? You probably have lit candles for special occasions – what better occasion than to light a candle honoring the Light of the World, Jesus Christ? And your Congregation

Council members voted to bring back the position of Teller. In this capacity, 2 members count the Sunday Offering after worship and prepare the documents for the bank deposit. Become engaged with the Worship experience and serve St. Paul in a new and giving way.

NEED “GENTLY USED” TABLES OR CHAIRS????

We currently have some used metal tables and chairs in the storage room off from the fellowship hall which the church no longer needs and are free for the taking. They are still functional, just not in great shape but are useful for a garage, project space area or personal pavilion. If interested please speak to David Miller or Pastor Ralph. A donation to the church for the items would also be appreciated but not required.



WELCA NEWS

Women of St. Paul, we hope you will join your Sisters in Spirit on March 14th, in the Fellowship Hall from 6-7 PM. During our February gathering we heard an inspiring devotional about “Bold Women,” delivered by Lucy Ballentine. We discussed the various ways we can be “bold” and developed the plans for the Easter BINGO event. And we are looking forward to later this Spring to hear more about Safe Harbor, a Hickory-based place for women

who need safety, education and assistance. We also still plan to share programs on issues such as disaster preparedness, self-defense, first aid/CPR and other topics from which we can all benefit. There is SO much we can do and we need YOU to join us as we work to show and share God’s love in our church, community and the world.

LENT BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY

Bishop Tim Smith will be offering a Lenten Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke every Thursday from March 10 to April 7 from 7:00 – 8:15 PM. This will be by Zoom (so internet service is required) to reflect on and engage with the Gospel of Luke. Registration is required at www.nclutheran.org. Once you have registered, you will be added to an email list. Each week you will receive an email containing the Zoom link.



CROCHET CRONIES HOPING TO ‘HOOK’ YOU!

We are still looking for more creative members to join us and share in our efforts to use our God-given talents to make items that provide love and warmth. During the initial months of the Covid-19 pandemic, our community partner Fresenius Kidney Care understandably declined accepting our lap robes and prayer shawls. However, they are now happy and eager to accept our donations made and blessed by the St. Paul Crochet Cronies and other members. Jesus asked us to “be fishers of people.” Well, we got the “hooks”!! And don’t forget the basket in the Narthex! If you know someone who needs a little extra warmth and love, please take an item to them.

KURE BEACH CANCELED FOR 2022

We have learned that there will not be any guests allowed to stay on site at Kure Beach Retreat Center for all of 2022. This is so that necessary renovations can be made to the building and there can be a time of reflection regarding future use of the facility. This is disappointing as every summer we look forward to that retreat weekend. Please know this was not an easy decision for the leaders at Agape+Kure Beach ministries but is made for everyone’s safety while discerning the future. We can be in prayer for the necessary maintenance and look forward to re-gathering in 2023.

ONLINE WORSHIP VIEWING

As many of you know, all data on our website www.stpaulstartown.org was lost several months ago. Until we are able to reconstruct this important part of outreach, one can still view our Sunday morning Worship. Simply log on to our website as usual. On the right hand side, at the bottom, below "Online Giving" is the letter "f". Click on that "f" and you will be automatically linked to the Facebook live televising of our Worship time together or view previous services. One does not have to be a registered Facebook user to view the service. There might be an advertisement to register but you don't have to do that. So, be sure to still join us online until you can join us in person.



The next meeting of the Congregation Council will meet on Sunday, March 13th in the Fellowship Hall, following worship.

AGAPE DAY CAMP IS A GO!!!!

We will again be able to offer Agape Day Camp at our Mission Property this summer. Our week is for Sunday July 17th – Friday July 22nd. Once again Camp Agape will send counselors to us that we will host as they lead the campers. We have room for 32 campers who are rising 1st – 8th graders. Think about children, grandchildren, neighbors and other people you know who could benefit from this week of day camp. Registration forms and other information will be available in the near future. Keep in mind we will be needing volunteers from the congregation to help. Also, be in prayer as our camps are currently reaching out to college campuses recruiting counselors for the summer.

OVERWHELMING OVERCOAT DONATIONS!

What a response!!!! Last year we collected 77 coats for our Palm Sunday cloak and coat drive. Well, drum roll, please..... YOU have donated 110 coats as of press time!! That's one hundred and ten ways to help keep our neighbors warm during these last weeks of winter. To really appreciate how much your generosity will mean to our shivering neighbors, just step outside your warm home without a jacket, hoodie or coat tonight about 9 o'clock and stay there for about 15-20 minutes – you will feel what our less-fortunate friends had been experiencing before you stepped up and brought your excess warming outerwear. You have taken to heart the February 20th Gospel lesson of Luke 6:31 "Do to others as you would have them do to you." Your donations will be brought to the Corner Table for distribution this week. May you be blessed as you have blessed others!



“N – CARROT”

You might hear that or “G – Bunny” over the microphone handled by our “experienced” BINGO caller if you come to the first-ever Easter BINGO event sponsored by our St. Paul WELCA coordinators. We especially want to bring together our homebound members or those who have been hesitant to return to the Church environment, citing Covid-19 concerns. Of course, we will spread out in our Fellowship Hall, offer facemasks if attendees forget theirs, serve box lunches and make every effort to keep everyone safe while still sharing a time of faith, fellowship and fun. The planned date March 24, 2022, from 11 AM to 1 PM. If you can donate a bag of Hershey’s Kisses (as card markers) or prizes, it would be so helpful. Prizes may be common sense items like paper towels or dish detergent, or maybe a store gift card. Look for lunch menu selection cards being available soon. We hope to see lots of smiling eyes and hear shouts of “BINGO!!!!”

RIGHT ON TARGET!!

In our January 2022 newsletter, we highlighted Luke Warren’s Fall success in archery. Well, Luke, the fifth grade son of John and Laura Warren, has continued his journey of success in this sport. In February (so far) he took home the 1st Place trophy at the Caldwell County Archery Competition for boys in elementary school. There were 50 other elementary archers. The competition also included Middle and High School archers, a total of 145 students, and Luke’s score of 263 out of 300 placed him 15th out of the 145 contestants. Not content to rest on his laurels, he also entered the East Burke games and placed 2nd out of 75 elementary school students and his score of 266 pushed his standing up to 9th out of the 144 total entrants. We can’t wait to hear how he fares at the NC State level, which is being held on February 26th in Winston-Salem and will feature 800 NC students from elementary thru high school. Considering he just took up the sport in September 2021, he can really “hit the bull’s eye.” We all wish you well, Luke!!

AN ‘EGG-CELLANT’ IDEA!

On March 2, 2022, we begin our Lenten journey. In addition to special services and Bible studies, in past years we have had “Fat Tuesday” celebrations and food collections. Maybe you are going to “give up” something for Lent as an intentional way to be reminded of Christ’s sacrifice for us. We will continue our Lenten support of ECCCM as we have in years past. Perhaps you remember the pyramids of canned goods and towers of paper towels arrayed in the Fellowship Hall stage. That was a lot of work that truly assisted those in need through ECCCM. However, times have changed and so have we. But that doesn’t mean we cannot still support our community partner but in a different and, perhaps, more financially beneficial way. This year, as last year, we will collect monetary donations during Lent. Look for the large egg in the Narthex and deposit your coins, cash or checks. Every cent will go to ECCCM to help them provide food to our Catawba neighbors. These are people we know, we greet at the post office, share school events with, all the while not knowing about their food insecurity. We don’t need to know their particular situation, but we do need to assist them and we can do that, with your help. So, please open your heart and consider feeding our ‘egg’ which will give life to others.



TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Thank you for your continued giving this year. It helps us not only pay bills and salaries but also support the many different ministries we have going on here at St. Paul and the wider church through our NC Synod and ELCA.

If you would like to sign up for electronic giving please contact the church office or visit our website www.stpaulstartown.org where you can find a donate button at the bottom of the home page. Offerings can also be mailed to the church office at 3761 Startown Rd., Newton, NC 28658. Offerings can be dropped off and placed in the black drop box outside the building next to the metal stairs and of course the offering plates during worship on Sunday mornings. Thank you again for your continued financial support of our church.

Council Highlights from February 13th

Motions Approved

- January 9, 2022 Minutes
- January 31, 2022 Treasurer's Report
- Approval to hold Lent services each Sunday evening during lent with no meal and beginning at 6:00 PM
- Pastor's written report
- Witness written report
- Approval to contract with Richard Boyett to handle our church audit for a cost of \$100-\$200.
- Approval to accept Gail Blackburn, Secretary as check signer in addition to Marty Coulter
- Approval to reinstate the money tellers with (1) council member and another congregation member to handle weekly by month.
- Approval to allow Morgan Lane, Administrative Assistant, to change his office hours to Friday mornings beginning sometime in August, 2022 after his Ordination and installation at Bethel.
- Approved quote obtained by property from McCannon Cleaning Services to strip and wax fellowship hall, Steam clean four (4) baths and kitchen floor and clean approximately 600 sq feet of carpet upstairs.
- Approval to offer fund drive for our Scholarship Fund for several months (May-June) of this year adding any monies donated to the fund and then review to decide whether we should continue or discontinue.



Council Notes

Items of Interest:

- Mounting of Church Canvas pictures – Still in progress
- Bingo event approved by WELCA to be held – Date will be announced
- Agape Day Camp is a "go" this year

St. Paul Lutheran Church

3761 Startown Rd

Newton, NC 28658

Phone: (828) 464-3853

www.StPaulStartown.org

STAMP
HERE

<<Address Here>>

We the people of St. Paul are called and empowered by God- To **Witness** through Christ; To **Welcome** everyone through the Holy Spirit; To **Worship** with joy; and To **Work** with God to meet the needs of our community.



Drive-Thru Ashes will be offered at St. Paul Lutheran on Wednesday, March 2nd, from 12pm until 12:30pm.

A Community Ash Wednesday Service is being held at First United Methodist Church in Newton at 7pm.