

# St. Paul Partners

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St. Paul Lutheran Church

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**Sponsored by Lucy Ballentine in honor of her children**

## ENTERING EASTER

Dear St. Paul Family,

As we enter the end of March and look toward April we are entering Holy Week – the most holy week of the year where our Lenten journey is coming to a close and we are looking to usher in Easter. Both words Lent and Easter come from ancient words that basically mean “springtime.” For us who live in the northern hemisphere, this is somewhat easier to encounter as for us it is the time where signs of spring are all around us. For the church calendar, Lent and Easter are set around the idea of spring as when Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, it was during the Jewish Passover festival in Jerusalem and Passover was always in the spring of the year. While we do not know the exact date the first Easter morning took place, the early Christian church kept the festival during the spring because when the church was under persecution, it was easier to blend in with pagan festivals going on and assign Christian meaning to their symbols – and so Christmas is celebrated near the winter solstice when pagans would have been observing a festival of lights and Easter in the springtime when pagans would have been offering prayers and sacrifices to the earth and fertility gods to bring about warmer weather and encourage the crops to grow. For us Easter falls on different Sundays on different years because it is traditionally observed the first Sunday after the first full moon of spring and so this year that Sunday is April 4<sup>th</sup>.

Here at St. Paul as we look to Holy Week, it will start on Palm Sunday March 28<sup>th</sup> with a traditional look at scripture and music that points to Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey to establish himself as our king. On that first “Palm Sunday” the people waved palm branches because that was a native plant with

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branches in abundance readily available close-by just like figs and fig trees would have been. Scripture also says some folks lay cloaks and garments at his feet. In observance of this ritual, we have a collection of coats in the hall closet here at church and these coats will be hung on the ends of each pew “decorated” with a palm sprig and (weather permitting) a line of coats will be laid out going down the middle of the outside steps. As a side note, there will still be plenty of room to use these front steps on each side where the handrails are and the ramp will still be safely accessible. These coats will be donated to a local charity for those in need.

For Maundy Thursday we will still offer traditional scripture, holy communion in the ‘upper room” and the stripping of the altar. This year, everyone in attendance who is willing and able will be given the opportunity to help carry something from the altar area to the conference room as we make ready to observe the event of our Lord’s death. For Good Friday we will have our Tenebrae service with the adoration of the cross. Both services are at 7:00PM.

For Easter Sunday, we will gather with St. Paul Reformed Church at the cemetery at 7:00AM for a sunrise service. This year in the

name of caution and safety we will not have breakfast but we will have a festive worship service in our sanctuary at 10:00AM which will include music from the handbell choir.

For these services we are still strongly recommending and encouraging the wearing of masks and social distancing, along with only sitting in the appropriate pews where bulletins are placed. It is understood that some will not feel comfortable attending and that is perfectly fine. We will make every effort to livestream the services where possible and each day during Holy Week I will offer a phone tree message appropriate for the day.

I encourage you to not let Holy Week and Easter go by just like any other ordinary time as this is an opportunity either at church or at home to participate in the story of Jesus and his love. As the season of Lent draws to a close and we enter the season of Easter, remember that together we are partners in ministry as we put our mission into practice to **Witness, Welcome, Worship** and **Work** in the name of our Lord.

Yours in Christ,  
*Pastor Ralph*

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### **SUMMER CAMP IS BACK!**

Summer camp opportunities are available at all four of our Lutheran camps in NC – Lutheridge, Lutherock, Agape and Kure Beach. Here at St. Paul we are planning to offer our day camp at the mission property Monday July 19 – Friday July 23. More information will be available in the near future. We also have our weekend at Kure Beach for Thursday July 22 – Sunday July 25. Cost is \$160 per person. Checks can be made out to St. Paul and earmarked “Kure Beach Trip.”

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**2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are now in the narthex. Please pick yours up at your earliest convenience. If you would like yours mailed to you or would like to make an appointment to pick up please contact Morgan or Pastor Ralph



## Birthdays

April 1	Rayford Herman
April 3	James Fincannon
April 7	Joyce Herman
April 9	Jerry Urcinola*
April 11	Judy Herman
April 14	Rev. Malcom Lerch
April 17	Gena Poovey
April 18	Willie Huffman
April 22	Judy Hoke



## Anniversaries

None recorded.

### ***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



**Church Council** will meet Sunday April 11<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall immediately after worship. Please bring your Council packet with you which you should receive as email the Wednesday beforehand.

**Our Christian sympathy and hope in the resurrection is extended to the family of Mr. Tyler Jarrett** who passed away unexpectedly last month. The family appreciates your prayers as they grieve. Tyler was a grandson of Gayle and Sterling Jarrett.

**Our Christian sympathy and hope in the resurrection is extended to the family of The Rev. Dr. Robert “Bob” Quincy Beard** who passed away on March 8<sup>th</sup> in Statesville, NC. He served as the pastor of St. Paul from 1963-1973. His funeral was held on Friday March 12<sup>th</sup> at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Troutman, NC. Memorials may be made to Gordon Hospice House, 2341 Simonton Road, Statesville, NC 28625 or to Lutheran Services Carolinas, 1416 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue South, Salisbury, NC 28144. If you would like to send a note to his wife, Carrie Beard, her address is: 213 Valleyview Rd., Mooresville, NC 28117.

### **SPRING, REALLY??**

The calendar may say “Spring” is here but there are still chilly days and nights ahead for a time. After our Palm Sunday Service on 3/28/21, the collected coats that lined our main aisle just as the faithful laid down their cloaks along the way as our Lord entered Jerusalem will be donated to the Corner Table to share the warmth and God’s love. And the palms among the coats will be used by the young people like Lilly Arrowood during a joint future confirmation learning experience.



## **WELCA WELCOMES SPRING!**

And we welcome all the women of St. Paul! Our April meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 PM on April 12th. Our one hour gathering (with masks and social distancing) will begin with devotions offered by Gail Blackburn. We are looking for ideas on how we can safely serve our community. Your thoughts are valuable and we encourage you to come and share your ideas. Help us to answer “our call to discipleship, be empowered by the Holy Spirit as we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action and promote healing and wholeness in the church, society and the world,”

To the People of St. Paul,

Thank you for your generous Mission Support that your congregation—along with congregations across the NC Synod – provided for our shared work together, even during a pandemic. Your generosity started a new faith community among those experiencing homelessness in downtown Winston-Salem, made sustaining gifts to our camping ministries which were so hard hit by the cancellation of regular programming, invested in leaders preparing for professional ministry, and made eight socially-distant ordinations possible. Thank you for all you do as Christ’s church in the North Carolina Synod! Prayers as you continue to explore God’s call in this season of ministry!

~Pastor Danielle Denise



**Editor’s Note:** *Pastor Denise serves in our synod as an Assistant to the Bishop. Her note and a certificate recognizing our benevolence giving in 2020 in the amount of \$12,000 are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the office.*

## ***Easter Sunrise Service***

You can probably remember at least the first few lines of this Easter hymn: “Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand.” We, of St. Paul Lutheran Church-Startown and St. Paul Reformed Church, will do just that, during Easter Morning Sunrise Service at our Memorial Park beneath the Cross. This is a joyful time to share our faith as we join together to celebrate the rolling back of the stone and the resurrection of our Lord. Please join your brothers and sisters on Sunday morning, April 4th, at 7:00 AM to commemorate death’s defeat and joyful event of the Resurrection.

Although we will not be sharing a breakfast this year due to pandemic concerns and respect for all people, we can still safely gather outside with masks and social distancing. Please come and share this special service with all those who are blessed with Christ’s sacrifice.

### ***Eggs and Coins – Any Connection??***

Ever wonder why eggs are associated with Easter? As far back as the early Middle Ages eggs have been a representation of resurrection and life beginning anew, just as Jesus did, following His ascension into Heaven. The symbolism indicates that as the bird emerges from its shell, so did Jesus from His tomb. The game of egg rolling is a symbolic re-enactment of the rolling away of the stone of Christ's tomb. Eggs were often colored red to represent Christ's blood shed for us. So, with eggs on your mind, "scramble" thru your sofa, chair, auto console and coin purse for some loose change to donate to our Lenten Food Fund Drive. We're "egging" you on to donate! Our donations will go to ECCCM to help our neighbors in Eastern Catawba County. So, skip your Starbuck's "Fried-day" cappuccino and donate to our Lenten Food Fund Drive which ends on Easter! It may be the end of our Lenten Food Fund Drive but it is only the beginning of more food security for our neighbors. Look for the special collection can in the Narthex on Easter morning Festive Worship in which to drop your coins. (And don't forget to recycle the egg cartons!)

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### ***\$1.09 CENT BUYS A SMILE!***

What a deal!! Only 109 pennies or 4 quarters, 1 nickel and 4 pennies or 21 nickels and 4 pennies!! For that tiny investment you can get a card at Dollar Tree and a 55 cent stamp. Huh? Why? For NO reason, that's why! Select a sentimental card or a funny card or a faith-filled card. Then decide who could use a smile, who would like to know they are not forgotten, to know you miss seeing them. Not a Christmas card or an Easter card or Mother's or Father's Day card. Not a 4th of July card or a Thanksgiving card. Just a "NO REASON" card, to let someone know you are thinking of them. Yes, WELCA underwrites the cost of sending weekly bulletins to our absent members and often sends cards for those special occasions or holidays. But imagine the smile your card will bring to a member's face for no reason, just because..... Put a stamp on that envelope and know you aren't sending a card – you are sending a smile and love!

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### ***SEE SPOT RUN. RUN SPOT, RUN.***

YEA!! You just passed the test for being a lay reader – Sign up NOW!!! Or have you lit candles on a birthday cake?? If so, (and we know you have), you can be an Acolyte – Sign up NOW! Have you carried a flag in a parade? Then you are an experienced Crucifer – Sign up NOW!! Seriously, we need volunteers to serve as worship assistants. No prior experience is required – we have plenty of training information and members willing to coach you. Like Uncle Sam says, "WE NEED YOU!" See the sign-up sheet in the Hallway outside the Church Office and jot down your name on one (or more!) lines. And don't forget to sign up to sponsor the monthly newsletter or Altar lilies or flowers while you are there. Or you can call the Church Office to let Morgan know you want to sign up for Newsletter or Altar flowers/lilies and will send in your donation.





# Lutheran Identities Study Process

LWF/Albin Hillert

Dear friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you during this season of Lent. It is a time when we, as Christians, reflect on our life together in Christ and the ways in which our identity in Christ is reflected in the world. Being able to articulate that identity can help guide us to a better understanding of ourselves and each other as God continues to call us to respond to the needs of the world.

There are many ways to reflect on our identity as Christians and Lutherans, one of which is by engaging each other across our global Lutheran family. As part of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), we seek to contribute our North American Lutheran perspectives to the larger Lutheran tapestry, made up of 77 million members across 99 countries! And like the ELCA, the LWF has a rich history of theological study processes that can help us better understand ourselves and what it means to be church.

In 2019, the LWF launched a study process to explore the ways our global Lutheran identities are lived out through biblical interpretation, worship and the work of justice, peace and

reconciliation. As a member of the LWF, the ELCA is taking part in this unique study process in a number of ways as we examine our Lutheran identity in our own context here in North America. We hope this process will allow us to experience the diverse ways our Lutheran tradition is being lived out. This is an opportunity to discern the ways in which we, in our own contexts, express law and gospel, faith and works, nature and grace, justification and sanctification, freedom and vocation – all parts of our common theological identity.

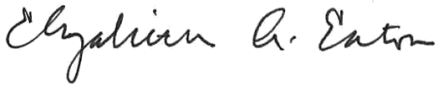
This Lent, I invite you to reflect on your Christian and Lutheran identities by participating in the Global Survey on Being Lutheran/Encuesta Mundial Sobre lo Que Significa Ser Lutheran. We also ask that you invite others in your churches to participate. The survey will be open through March 31, and responses gathered will help to shape the 13th LWF Assembly in 2023.

In addition, between now and June you are invited to take part in a larger conversation that will transpire across the LWF communion. The LWF has produced a discussion guide titled *We Believe in the Holy Spirit: Welcome to a Global*

Conversation on Being Lutheran/Creemos en el Espíritu Santo: Bienvenido/a a una Encuesta Mundial Sobre lo Que Significa Ser Luterano/a. This guide will help lead your congregation's Christian education and/or youth group on a journey of mutual discovery and learning.

Thank you for sharing your insights and experiences. They will contribute to furthering our understanding of what being Lutheran means in this time and place as we continue to journey together in Christ through these next 500 years of reformation.

With peace and gratitude,



Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

To Fill Out the Survey, follow this link:

<https://bit.ly/3d1uEEJ>



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.



## Council Notes

The St. Paul Church Council met in person on Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 11:28am. Highlights from the meeting include:

- \$50 of Thrivent Funds to be redirected to Lenten Food Drive.
- Care package from WELCA was sent to Bryson Arrowood.
- Moir Landscaping LLC has been awarded church mowing contract for 2021.
- Church Constitution Amendment project is ongoing
- Members are encouraged (while masked) to sing or hum along with the music for Sunday morning worship services.

### Sponsor the Newsletter!

This is the last sponsored newsletter for 2021. We have openings from May through December for sponsorships. See the bulletin board in the office hallway for more info.



## St. Paul Lutheran Church

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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.



### WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 4th

- 7:00am      Joint Worship Service with St. Paul's Reformed  
                  at St. Paul's Memorial Park
- 10:00am     Festival Easter Worship in the Sanctuary  
                  *Livestream will be available.*