

Sponsored by Lucy Ballentine in memory of her brother, Calhoun, who died on Easter Sunday

The Most Holy Week of the Year

Dear St. Paul Family,

It starts with Palm Sunday and ends at the cross. It starts April 10th and ends April 16th. It begins with triumph and ends in tragedy. It begins with hope and ends with grief. It begins with shouts of “Hosanna!” and ends with “It is finished!” For Christians it is the most holy week of the year. It is a week which tells the story of Jesus taking a journey to the cross. It is a week which shows us the story of God’s ultimate love for us. Holy Week can be summarized as:

Palm Sunday: Jesus entered Jerusalem.

Holy Monday: Jesus freed the sacrificial animals and cleansed the temple.

Holy Tuesday: Jesus taught at the temple.

Holy Wednesday: A disciple named Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus for pieces of silver. This is also known as “Spy Wednesday.”

Maundy Thursday: Jesus gives the command to love one another and demonstrates by washing the disciples’ feet.

Good Friday: Jesus was crucified on a cross. Darkness covered the earth.

Holy Saturday: Jesus rested in the tomb.

Easter Sunday: Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed!

This month we will gather for worship on April 10th to recognize the palm branches laid in Jesus’ path as he and the disciples make their entry into Jerusalem. For Wednesday, Thursday and Friday worship opportunities will be offered at 7:00PM. On Holy Wednesday, I will offer a service of healing. For Maundy Thursday, we will have a traditional service where I will preach on the theme of God’s mercy in bread and wine as we gather in the “Upper Room” for the Lord’s Supper. On Good Friday I will offer the traditional Tenebrae Service where I will preach on God’s mercy in and through the cross.

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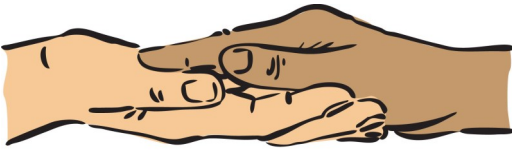
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Then the good part comes. After the most holy week of the year has ended, we get to gather at the cemetery at 7:00AM on Easter morning April 17th to proclaim Christ is Risen through victory over death and the grave. St. Paul Reformed Church will host us for breakfast and we will have our festive service here at 10:00AM to hear of God's mercy through the "Open Tomb."

It will be an emotional but spirit filled week as we continue to experience, live out and tell the story of Jesus and His love. 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



Congregational Care

Our Christian sympathy and hope in the resurrection is extended to the family of Barbara Reed who passed away on March 15th. Her service was held at St. Paul officiated by Pastor Ralph on Monday March 21st. 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 Katlin Wooten who passed away unexpectedly last month. She was the older half-sister of Elena Wooten, Sue Jarrett's granddaughter.

Wanda Helton has transferred her membership to St. John Lutheran Church in Lenoir, NC.

Congratulations to one of our youth, Luke Warren who placed in the "sweet 16" out of 96 robots in the CCS Robotics Sumo Fest last month. Way to go Luke!!

Doris Coleman, who has worshipped with us at St. Paul for years, has made the discerning decision to move closer to her daughter in the Raleigh/Durham area and taking up residence in a retirement community. We wished her "Godspeed" during worship on March 27th but she will continue to be in our prayers for health, joy and love. We will share her new address as soon as it is available.

CONCERT OPPORTUNITY

Our own Dr. Gena Poovey will be conducting a spring choral concert at Limestone College entitled "Love Is....," on Sunday April 3rd at 3:00PM in Fullerton Auditorium. Everyone is invited.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY WITH THE BISHOP

Bishop Tim Smith will conclude his online bible study on the gospel according to Luke this Thursday April 7th starting at 7:00PM. Registration can be done through the synod's website at nclutheran.org.



Birthdays

April 1	Rayford Herman
April 3	James Fincannon
April 7	Joyce Herman
April 9	Jerry Urcinola
April 11	Judy Herman Jim Ferguson
April 14	Malcom Lerch
April 17	Gena Poovey
April 19	Elaine Lutz
April 22	Judy Hoke Holly Crawley



Anniversaries

April 5	Noah Lindemann & Gena Poovey
April 20	Dick & Ann Walker
April 21	Michelle & Denny Davis

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

WE HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED FOR OUR GENEROUS MISSION SUPPORT

Dear St. Paul Congregation,

Thank you for the generous Mission Support that your congregation shared with the synod in 2021. Your generosity means that we continue to walk together. Your gifts made possible two new mission starts, supported over forty candidates preparing for ministry, and even helped us begin our new program for lay leaders – Synodically Authorized Ministers (SAMs). SAMs are being trained even now to serve our smallest congregations in need of leadership throughout the synod. Thank you for all you do as Christ's Church in the North Carolina Synod.

I give thanks to God for your work in Newton and beyond, work in Jesus' name. I pray God grants you extra measures of that which you need to proclaim the love of Christ.

The Rev. Jennifer Shimota
NC Synod Council Member

Editor's Note: St. Paul sent \$12,500.00 in benevolence money to the synod in 2021 not counting extra offerings for world hunger and disaster relief. The certificate is on the bulletin board outside the church office.

AND ALSO THIS...

St. Paul has been recognized as a "Top Generous Congregation" on behalf of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services for our giving to them in 2021. A letter of appreciation and certificate can be found on the bulletin board outside the office.

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine on Feb. 24, millions of people have fled the country and are seeking refuge in neighboring countries including Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. There are major humanitarian concerns for both internally displaced people and refugees. LDR is providing refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits. Care for people also includes pastoral and psychological support to address the trauma they've endured.

Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. **Your gifts will support people impacted by this crisis. Gifts designated to "Eastern Europe Crisis" will be used in full (100%) for direct response to assist those affected.**

Lutheran Disaster Response is supporting these member churches through Lutheran World Federation:

- German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Romania
- Evangelical Churches of the Augsburg Confession in Poland, Slovakia and Romania

Additional responses through partners in these countries and others in the region are expected in the coming weeks and months. These ARE our neighbors, all brothers and sisters in Christ – please help.

YEP, WE'RE STILL ASKING!

You no doubt have seen how easier we have made it for you to serve as a Crucifer, eliminating the need to walk up the steps to the Altar. So, when will you offer to serve as Crucifer, leading us in to Worship and out to serve and spread God's Word? And we still need members to serve as Ushers, Acolytes and Lay Readers. Lots of ways to share your faith are open, just waiting for you to sign up. See the Bulletin Board outside the Church Office.

SHE DID IT!!

Lucy Ballentine is the first person to tell you she is "not crafty" but that is NO longer true! She just completed her first toboggan, a work of art on a round loom in multiple bright colors. And if she is ever caught in an avalanche, she'll be easy to locate by the bright red pompom on the top! How did she do it? It was the lure of the St. Paul Crochet Cronies and the sharing of talents, faith and fun. This group meets on the second and forth Monday mornings, from 9-11 AM in the Conference Room. Lucy has now begun a matching scarf – what will you make??



The next meeting of the Congregation Council will meet on Sunday, April 10th 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.

BINGO BLAST!!

Last month, on March 24th, WELCA sponsored our first ANNUAL EASTER BINGO event. We were SO happy to see SO many smiling faces we hadn't seen lately! We want to thank all those who donated the wide variety of prizes which were scrutinized and selected by the many winners. It has not been determined by WELCA if and when we will hold another such reason to come together to share our faith and friendship. But, boy, did we have fun putting Hersey's kisses on the "carrot", "chick" or "Easter Basket" squares!



Be part of the first Synod Gathering, EVER!

Bring a group from your congregation

ALL are welcome to attend. Come for one, two, or all three days!

Learn More at: nclutheran.org/event/2022-synod-gathering/

Register by April 26 and SAVE!

WHO'S SPEAKING?

- Dr. Jacqueline Bussie, author of *Love without Limits*
- ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton
- Rev. CeCee Mills, Asst. to the Bishop
- Rev. Tim Smith, Bishop, NC Synod

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

(Not an all-encompassing list!)

- Creating a culture of generosity
- Church and Civic Engagement
- Long Term Ministry and Adapting to Culture
- End of Life Doulas
- Online Ministry Coming Out of COVID

APRIL WELCA GATHERING

Ladies of St. Paul, all of you, are most cordially invited to come to our April meeting to be held on April 11th, the day after Palm Sunday from 6-7 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Our devotional time will be led by Mary Carriker, followed by old and new business. We would like to hear your ideas and suggestions on how we can live out our Mission Statement to "support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action and promote healing and wholeness in the church, society and the world."

CRACK IT OPEN!

There's only a couple of more weeks to donate to our Lenten Food Drive to benefit ECCCM. Have you dropped your loose change, bills or checks into the big pink egg in the Narthex? You can always add to your weekly offering by noting a portion to be allocated to "Lenten Food Drive" on the memo line. ECCCM works tirelessly to alleviate the food scarcity experienced by too many of our neighbors here in Eastern Catawba County. Their ministry provides nourishing food to 200-300 persons every week. Let's pull together to help them help others.

GOT BLOOMS??

On Saturday, April 16, 2022, at 9:00 AM, we will decorate our Easter Cross with fresh flowers, as we have in years past. If you have any flowers showing off their Spring splendor, please consider snipping a few branches which can be used to adorn our Cross. You can drop them off and/or stay and help us continue this special St. Paul symbol of Easter.



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 though church body. If you would like to sign up for electronic giving please contact the church office or visit our website www.stpaulstartown.org. Thank you again for your continued financial support of our church.

Congregational Church Council Highlights March 2022

Motions approved:

- February 13, 2022 Minutes
- February, 2022 Treasurer's Report
- Pastor's Report
- Witness and Property Report
- Approval of Deposit & Tellers Guidelines



Council Notes

Items of Interest:

- Easter Sunrise Service 7:00 AM at the cemetery with St Paul Reformed
- Breakfast following sunrise service hosted by St Paul Reformed
- 120 donated coats delivered to The Corner Table
- Blue & Gold Scout ceremony held at St Paul February 26, 2022
- Crochet Cronies delivered lap robes to our community partner, Fresenius Kidney Care
- Carpet Cleaning/Floor stripping and waxing complete
- Mission Property: Contracted to have tables, sidewalks, concrete and gutters pressured washed before April 2nd.
- April 2nd – Cleanup day at Mission Property

APRIL 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 8:00pm - A.A.	2 9:00am - Clean-Up at Mission Property
3 8:30am - Breakfast 9:00am - Sun. Sch. 10:00am - Worship 6:00pm - Evening Prayer	4 6:00pm - Cub Scouts 7:00pm - Boy Scouts	5 6:00pm - Girl Scout District Meeting	6 6:30pm - Handbells	7 7:00pm - Online Bible Study with Bishop Smith	8 8:00pm - A.A.	9
10 8:30am - Breakfast 9:00am - Sun. Sch. 10:00am - Worship 11:30am - Congregational Council	11 9:00am - Crochet Cronies 6:00pm - WELCA 6:00pm - Cub Scouts 7:00pm - Boy Scouts	12	13 7:00pm - Service of Healing	14 7:00pm - Maundy Thursday Worship	15 12:00pm - Ecumenical Service at First Presby. Newton 7:00pm - Good Friday Worship 8:00pm - A.A.	16 9:00am - Appoint Sanctuary for Easter
17 7:00am - Sunrise Service at Cemetery 7:45am - Breakfast at Reformed Church 10:00am - Festive Worship	18 6:00pm - Cub Scouts 7:00pm - Boy Scouts	19	20	21	22 8:00pm - A.A.	23
24 8:30am - Breakfast 9:00am - Sun. Sch. 10:00am - Worship	25 9:00am - Crochet Cronies 6:00pm - Cub Scouts 7:00pm - Boy Scouts	26	27	28	29 8:00pm - A.A.	30

St. Paul Lutheran Church

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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.



Easter, April 17, 2022

7:00am - Sunrise Service at St. Paul's Memorial Park

7:45am - Easter Breakfast at St. Paul's Reformed Church

10:00am - Festive Worship at St. Paul Lutheran Church