

St. Paul Partners

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Sponsored by the Sisters in Spirit wishing everyone a "Happy Easter!"

A Word from the Pastor

A BROKEN PENCIL

Dear St. Paul Family,
The other evening when I was checking over the bulletin board in the hall between the office and my study, I was a bit dismayed to discover two punch marks in the bulletin board surrounded by a lead coating. I then discovered the source. There on the table beneath the bulletin board lay a pencil broken completely in half. It appeared that it had been done deliberately by someone either angry or frustrated or both. The sight of that broken pencil got me to thinking. I asked myself the obvious questions, "*Who could have done this?*" "*Why would someone do this?*" I also thought about my mother who was a school teacher for 25 years. She used to say she didn't like to see broken pencils. As a teacher she had her share of students who didn't have a pencil at school for

whatever reason and so she would give them one – often times paid for out of her own pocket. She would then escort the kids to the playground at recess and would be dismayed and angered to see broken pencils about the school yard, the victims of "pencil fights" which was a popular "game" played by school children in the 1970's. I was also reminded of an article I read recently called "Just a Pencil." It told the story of a young man backpacking through India when he came upon a poor village. He asked one of the children "What's the one thing I can do for you today?" The child replied, "I would like to have a pencil." The backpacker was able to supply this request and when he gave his used pencil to the child, his reaction

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Mission Statement

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.

Pastor's Article Continued

was like he had been given the best Christmas present ever. This child in that poor village understood that a pencil was his tool for learning and doing well in school (an opportunity not all children in third world countries have) and therefore his ticket out of poverty. It struck me how interesting it is that in one culture a pencil is treated like gold whereas in our culture they are taken for granted and are seen as objects it's okay to play with or destroy out of anger.

It is a reminder that here in the Startown area there are people who feel frustrated, angry, hopeless and about as broken as that pencil. As Easter Sunday approaches this is a wonderful time of year to hear and remember the good news of Jesus and His love – His love for everyone, and that our Lord has the power to heal the broken hearted and make all things new. This month as we are already into Holy Week at the very start, I hope you won't see the extra services and activities as just more stuff to cram into a busy schedule. I hope you will see them as opportunities to participate in the story and to be renewed in the promises of the resurrection. I understand it may be easy to think this is the same old story we have heard before and wonder why we have to hear it over and over again. God has been around for more years than we can count and I bet He's not bored or frustrated.

I don't imagine God saying to Himself, "*Man another Easter and I don't see how it's going to be any different from 2012, 2001 or 893.*" The fact is that God has a plan and each year it comes together just a little bit more. With each life that is touched by the grace of Christ, things change. With each person that says grace before meals, each family that struggles to make it to worship things change. Each bedtime prayer, each offering of forgiveness and understanding, and each sacrificial gift means something beyond that moment. It might feel like the same old same old but if we are passing on faith then *same is better* because it becomes *more*.

I look forward to being with you during the upcoming Easter season as we hear the story of a God who dared to break into our broken world with grace and forgiveness to make us whole. I look forward to being in partnership with you as we live out our mission statement to "**witness, welcome, worship and work** with God to meet the needs of our community." This month and always may you know the joy, peace and understanding of Jesus and His love.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Ralph Rupp

Our Christian sympathy and hope in the resurrection is extended to the family of Mr. Marvin "Jug" Goodson, Jr. who passed away March 11, 2015. His funeral was held at Burke Mortuary Chapel officiated by Pastor Ralph with burial in the church cemetery. Memorials may be made to Carolina Healthcare Foundation "Joining Hearts Pediatric Cardiology Fund", 1221 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28204 or to St. Paul's Lutheran Church.



Dear Pastor Ralph & Congregation of St. Paul Lutheran Church,
Thank you for the prayers and cards. It has been very comforting to know and see how much God's love and the love of others can get you through the hard or difficult times. Thank you for all of the love and support. It is greatly appreciated!
Many Thanks! Love, Sincerely,
Holly Crawley



Dear Friends,
Thank you so much for such a delicious meal your group prepared. That was the first time this winter season the guest's had vegetable beef soup. They absolutely loved that with toasted cheese sandwiches. Thanks for your continued support to The Corner Table!
The Corner Table Team

To You Who Cared,
Thank you for the cards, the phone calls, the visits and the food. "God" Bless you.
Sincerely,
Evie R. Warlick
Editor's Note: These cards along with artwork by Evie can be found on the bulletin board outside the office.



YOU'RE INVITED! The congregation is cordially invited to Startown Elementary School on Thursday April 2nd for their Terrific Kid Celebration. Kindergarten – second grade will be recognized from 8:00am – 9:00am and 4th – 6th graders from 1:00pm – 2:00pm. The PE club will perform as students and classrooms are recognized for their achievements. As we look toward deepening our partnership with the school this is a wonderful opportunity to drop in and look at what Startown Elementary is all about!

DOESN'T THE FRONT LOOK BEAUTIFUL???: A big "THANK YOU" go out to Dick & Ann Walker and Richard & Gail Blackburn for spending the better part of a day weeding, cleaning, planting and mulching to help the front of the church look spectacular for Easter!



Stained Glass Window History

A great idea came out of a recent Wednesday prayer meeting. The winter sun was shining through our Sanctuary windows, illuminating the space with brilliant color. A question was asked about the windows and in whose memory they were donated. We quickly realized that we have an enormous wealth of family history imbedded in our glass. As a result, we will be working to record that history in the coming weeks. Look for a simple questionnaire being included in a weekly bulletin. We hope to learn about and record Granny Gertrude's magic elixir or 3rd Cousin Herbert's hunting dogs. Once the information is gathered and compiled we will focus on one window a week during Worship announcement time. This will be an informative and fun way to save and share our rich and varied past for future congregations.



A huge THANK YOU to everyone who participated and helped with the Easter Egg Extravaganza on Sunday March 29th.

Easter Sunday April 5th

Youth member Tayler Lail will be baptized during the Festive worship service! Also during the Sunday School hour everyone in attendance will have a chance to experience the resurrection story through making, baking and eating “resurrection buns.”

Sunday April 12th – Boy Scout Sunday

Members from our sponsored Troop 398 will be in attendance and helping with worship.

Sunday April 19th – Youth Executive Planning Team at 9:00am

This is open to all parents of our youth to come together for planning future youth events.

Camping trip at the Mission Property

Friday April 24 – Saturday April 25 More information to come soon.

Women ^{of the} **ELCA** 

The Sunshine Circle and the Sisters in Spirit have had a busy month and have future projects underway. In addition to sharing the Word through monthly devotions offered by members, the women of St. Paul are making plans for nominating LTSS memberships, adorning the Easter Cross in the Sanctuary, assisting with the combined Easter Breakfast and plans to visit homebound members in April. A productive activity has been the creation of counted cross-stitch emblems for our Chrismon tree. And a number of the Sisters in Spirit traveled to Salisbury on two separate occasions to purchase instructions and supplies for beaded Chrismons, similar to those on Pastor and Mary Kraft’s personal Chrismon tree, only larger. They are arranging one more trip to get hands on instruction. And look for more news on “Diapering Detroit” Hmm... Want to know more? Join us on April 13th at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall or at 6 PM in the Conference Room.

Did you...??

As a child, did you attend Day Camp during the summer? Remember how much fun you had? Do you recall the songs you sang or the crafts you made? Please consider helping rising 1st – 8th grade students create the same kind of memories by assisting at this year’s Agape Day Camp. The scheduled dates are Monday, July 20, 2015 thru Friday, July 24, 2015. No particular skills are needed – just an interest in sharing your time as a monitor and helper. “Agape” means “unconditional.” Let’s show that “unconditional” love and support that is in abundance here at St. Paul. Please see Barbara Sloop or Pastor Ralph to sign up to help.



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 12pm - <i>Prayer Meeting</i> 6pm - <i>Handbells</i> 7pm - <i>Healing Service</i> 7:30pm - <i>Choir</i>	2 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7pm - <i>Service of Communion & Stripping of Altar</i>	3 GOOD FRIDAY 7pm - <i>Tenebrae Service</i> 8pm - A.A.	4 9am - <i>Appoint Sanctuary for Easter</i>
5 EASTER SUNDAY 7am - <i>Sunrise Service at Cemetery</i> 7:45am - <i>Breakfast at St. Paul Lutheran</i> 9am - <i>Sunday School</i> 10am - <i>Easter Festival Worship</i>	6 1:30pm - <i>Senior Citizens</i>	7 6:30pm - <i>Constitution Update Team</i>	8 12pm - <i>Prayer Meeting</i> 6pm - <i>Handbells</i> 7pm - <i>Choir Practice</i>	9	10 8pm - A.A.	11
12 BOY SCOUT SUNDAY 8:30am - <i>Java With Jesus</i> 9am - <i>Sunday School; Confirmation</i> 10am - <i>Worship</i> 11:30am - <i>Church Council</i>	13 10am - <i>Sunshine Circle</i> 6pm - <i>Sisters in Spirit</i>	14 6pm - <i>Agape Day Camp Planning Meeting</i>	15 12pm - <i>Prayer Meeting</i> 6pm - <i>Handbells</i> 7pm - <i>Choir Practice</i>	16	17 8pm - A.A.	18
19 8:30am - <i>Java With Jesus</i> 9am - <i>Sunday School; Confirmation; Youth Executive Team Meeting</i> 10am - <i>Worship</i>	20	21	22 12pm - <i>Prayer Meeting</i> 6pm - <i>Handbells</i> 7pm - <i>Choir Practice</i>	23	24 8pm - A.A.	25
26 MALARIA SUNDAY 8:30am - <i>Java With Jesus</i> 9am - <i>Sunday School; Confirmation</i> 10am - <i>Worship</i>	27	28 6:30pm - <i>Forward Together Team Meeting</i>	29 12pm - <i>Prayer Meeting</i> 6pm - <i>Handbells</i> 7pm - <i>Choir Practice</i>	30	Youth Camping at Mission Property	

April Servants

Liturgy...The Work of the People Offered Unto God

<i>MONTHLY DUTIES</i>		
Ushers	Glenn Hoke	Harvey Frye
Altar Guild	David Miller	Donna Miller
Money Counter (Teller)	Roger Frye	Sharon Frye
Sunday School Teller	Gail Blackburn	
Communion (1st, 3rd, 5th)	Betsy Lindler	Mary Kraft
Communion (2nd, 4th)	Joey Potter	Michelle Potter

<i>WEEKLY DUTIES</i>	April 5	April 12	April 19	April 26
Greeter	Chantae Lail	Harvey Frye	Willie Huffman	Donna Miller
Lay Reader	Wanda Helton	Richard Helton	Mary Kraft	Kathy Frye
Prayer Leader	Pastor Ralph	Keith Frye	Gail Bowman	Kathy Simmons
Acolyte	Joey Potter	Karina Coulter	Kathy Frye	Wanda Helton
Crucifer	Zoey Lail	Keith Frye	Richard Helton	Savannah Lail
Children's Message	Pastor Ralph	Barbara Sloop	Gail Bowman	Wanda Helton



- 4/1 Rayford Herman
Nancy Jarrett
- 4/3 James Fincannon
- 4/9 Jerry Urcinola
Glenn Yount
- 4/11 Jim Ferguson
Judy Herman

- 4/17 Gena Poovey
- 4/18 Willie Huffman
- 4/19 Elaine Lutz
- 4/22 Holly Crawley
Judy Hoke



March 2015 Council Highlights

The attendance report was reviewed and approved as follows:

January 2015

Worship: 66 average
Sunday School: 30 average

February 2015

Worship: 72 average
Sunday School: 38 average

Motions:

- February 15, 2015 council minutes
- February 2015 Treasurer's Report
- Pastor's Report
- Consent Agenda Reports: Witness, Worship, Forward Together
- Approved contributing \$100 to Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary Auxiliary
- Approved moving \$5,000 from Dedicated Memorials to General Fund
- Approval to promote Community Day according to vendor's schedule on May 2, 9 or 16. (Date will be announced)

Items of Interest:

- Upcoming Synod Assembly to be held May 28, 29 & 30, 2015 with election of new Bishop.
- St Paul will host Easter breakfast following Sunrise service on April 5, 2015
- Lenten Food Drive – Remember to bring your donations for this Community outreach ministry!

Financial Reports Were Not Available at Print Time

WORLD MALARIA DAY

World Malaria Day is observed internationally on April 25th, which is a Saturday this year. The NC Synod is encouraging congregations to commemorate World Malaria Day on Sunday, April 26th. This will be the final observance of World Malaria Day within the ELCA Malaria Campaign. The NC Synod's one day goal is: \$50,000. Let's help the NC Synod and World Malaria Day by contributing to this worthy cause.



Exciting News from Forward Together

Our Forward Together Team has been actively searching for ways to broaden our Church and community experience. As a community of believers called by God and inspired by the Holy Spirit to be the presence of Christ in our community we have been led to believe that a partnership with Startown Elementary

School would provide an enriching and beneficial experience for both the current students and St. Paul members "returning to school." Our initial idea was to offer a mentoring program here at our church. However, it has been discovered through conversation and discernment that we can better serve and share our time and talents by being a presence at the school campus itself. Pastor Ralph has had several conversations with Startown School leaders and they are excited about our partnership. We expect there will be a multitude of ways that every church member can help the students and staff and we will be sharing those with you in the coming weeks.



ST. PAUL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
STARTOWN

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www.stpaulstartown.org

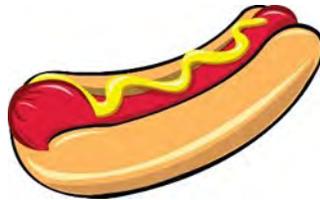
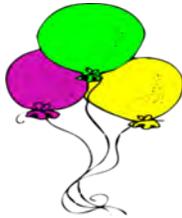
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St. Paul Partners

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4th Annual Community Day

Mark your calendar for May 2, 2015!! That is when we will hold our Annual Community Day at the Mission Pavilion from 11:00AM – 3:00PM. This is our opportunity to share our blessings and love for our Startown neighbors. We will have inflatables, games, food, music, fun and fellowship. All we need is YOU! Come with your family, come alone, come as a guest OR come join the fun as a participant. There are sign-up sheets posted in the Church indicating that you can share your time and talent in this fun and rewarding way. We need Mission property maintenance, inflatable monitors, game supervisors, food servers, musicians, sweet treat bakers, clean-up crews, publicity – there is a way for everyone to make a contribution to a successful and enjoyable day.