

# Crosstalk

February 2024

## DUTIES FOR FEBRUARY

### Ushers (should arrive by 9:15):

Brent Gottfried      Jane Smalley  
Becky Krock          Jim Gatchell

### Greeters:

Tim & Shannon Ray (west)

### Assisting Ministers:

4 – Sheryl Clinger  
11 – Ben Ault  
14 – Beth Collins  
18 – Jim Ruhlen  
25 – Matt Schultz

### Acolytes:

4 – Robert Roszman & Ian Seal  
11 – Harper Fahle & Adrianna Ray  
14 (Ash Wednesday) – Caroline Baker & Erica Ruhlen  
18 – Abby Ault & Brody Mays  
25 – Jocelyn & Drew Leightey

### Readers:

4 – June Eier  
11 – Emily Ruhlen  
14 (Ash Wednesday) – Beth Collins  
18 – Bruce Decker  
25 – Ann Kemerley

### Communion Assistants:

Paula Brown & Jill Eyestone  
Abby Ault & Caroline Baker on the 11<sup>th</sup>

### Bread Baker: Nancy Ross

### Host in The Gathering Place:

4 – Kelly Fahle  
11 – Angie Ford  
18 – Tim & Shannon Ray  
25 – Nancy & Katy Ross

St. Paul Lutheran  
120 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
419-294-2831

[stpaulupper@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulupper@gmail.com)



### Pastor:

Barry Halter, Jr.  
419-852-9823

[pastorbarryhalter@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbarryhalter@gmail.com)

### Administrative Assistant:

Beth Collins  
419-294-8326

[bjcollins8326@gmail.com](mailto:bjcollins8326@gmail.com)

### Office Hours:

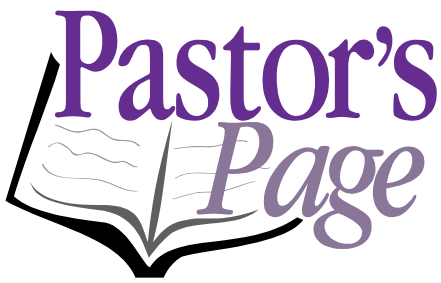
Closed Monday & Wednesday  
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday:  
8am-12pm, 1-5pm

### Website:

[www.stpaulupper.org](http://www.stpaulupper.org)

### 2024 Council Members:

Jacob Badenhop 419-572-9964  
Chad Baker 614-309-4104  
Katie Clark 419-310-9889  
BJ Ford 419-619-2166  
Jean Hollanshead 419-310-0447  
Rick Kraus 419-310-8395  
Tim Ray 419-310-1313  
Matt Schultz 419-552-4465  
Melissa Summit 419-310-2788



## Follow Me

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus often invites his disciples into his fold with a simple phrase, "Follow me." At times, the response is immediate. Andrew, Peter, James, and John simply stop their daily fishing tasks and follow Jesus.

Others required a bit more convincing. Nathaniel needed some assurance that Jesus was who others claimed him to be, and that indeed something good could come out of Nazareth. Some could not be convinced. We are told one man asked what he needed to do to follow Jesus and His response was, sell everything and give it to the poor, then follow me. It was too much to ask. It was too hard to accept.

For those that did follow Jesus the road was not always easy either. They often had questions. They went to unfamiliar places to witness Jesus do amazing things. They went to familiar places, places they did not want to go to witness Jesus do amazing things. Everywhere they went Jesus forever changed hearts, minds, and spirits.

It must have been so impressive, so inspiring to witness Jesus heal the sick, cast out demons, and all the other miracles he performed. We might say to ourselves, "If I could have seen that firsthand...I would never have any doubt." Or "If that happened today people's hearts would change for sure."

Jesus's disciples, however, did have doubts. They did have questions. They wondered aloud if there was another way. As we read Mark's Gospel we hear over and over how Jesus explained and reinforced the plan. He told them they would not like it and that it would not be easy. And they followed him.

In our world today we are asked to follow Jesus. We are asked to be his hands and feet. We are asked to continue the mission that He put into motion so long ago. We are asked to make the Kingdom known on earth. We may not raise the dead, but we can certainly raise spirits. We may not feed thousands with five loaves of bread and two fish, but we can feed the hungry. We comfort those around us when it seems that fear and pain and disbelief are winning.

It is in our actions that people can still see the miracles of Jesus even today. Follow Jesus into the known and the unknown. Either way the mission is the same. Show God's love and grace with the world we meet. Share the Good News of Jesus. Watch as God's Kingdom is revealed all around us.

God's Peace,  
Pastor Barry



# FEBRUARY 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>E&amp;S = Evangelism &amp; Stewardship</b></p> <p><b>FH = Fellowship Hall</b></p> <p><b>MM = Mutual Ministrv</b></p>	<p><b>SS = Sunday School</b></p> <p><b>CS = Cub Scouts</b></p> <p><b>CFC = Christian Food Center</b></p>	<p><b>WOW = Word on Wednesday</b></p> <p><b>DB = Dartball</b></p> <p><b>LL = Lenten Luncheon</b></p> <p><b>AB = Advanced Bells</b></p>	<p><b>R/N = Ruth/Naomi Circle</b></p> <p><b>WC = Wyandot Cares</b></p> <p><b>BB = Beginning Bells</b></p>	<p><b>1</b> 1-3pm CFC distribution</p> <p>3pm WELCA Board meeting</p> <p>7:30pm DB @ Nazarene</p>	<p><b>2</b> 1:15-2:15pm WC</p>	<p><b>3</b> 4:30-10pm FH in use</p>
<p><b>4</b> 8am Council 9am Adult SS 9:15am Choir practice 10am Worship 11am Choir practice 11am E&amp;S</p>	<p><b>5</b> 8:30am Pinning &amp; knotting 7pm DB @ Jenera</p>	<p><b>6</b> 6:30pm CS 6:30pm BB 7pm AB</p>	<p><b>7</b> 8am-12:45pm WC 9:30am R/N Circle 12-2pm CFC accept donations 7:30pm WOW</p>	<p><b>8</b> 1-3pm CFC distribution 7pm Martha Circle 7:30pm DB (H) vs. Angeline</p>	<p><b>9</b> 1:15-2:15pm WC</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>
<p><b>11</b> 8:30am 4 S's 9am Adult SS 10am Worship 11am Choir practice 11am Set up FH</p>	<p><b>12</b> 8:30am Pinning &amp; knotting</p>	<p><b>13</b> 6:30pm CS 6:30pm BB 7pm AB</p>	<p><b>14</b> 8am-12:45pm WC 12pm LL 12-2pm CFC accept donations 6:15pm Supper</p>	<p><b>15</b> 1-3pm CFC distribution 7:30pm DB @ Mud Church</p>	<p><b>16</b> 1:15-2:15pm WC</p>	<p><b>17</b> 10am-noon CFC distribution 10am-noon Free Community Meal 10am DB</p>
<p><b>18</b> 9am Adult SS 9:15am Choir practice 10am Worship 11am Choir practice</p>	<p><b>19</b> 8:30am Pinning &amp; knotting 6pm DB Banquet @ St. John's, Findlay</p>	<p><b>20</b> 6:30pm CS 6:30pm BB 7pm AB</p>	<p><b>21</b> 8am-12:45pm WC 12pm LL 12-2pm CFC accept donations 6:15pm Supper</p>	<p><b>22</b> 1-3pm CFC distribution 5pm VBS planning meeting @ 1st 7:30pm DB @ Heritage</p>	<p><b>23</b> 1:15-2:15pm WC</p>	<p><b>24</b> 8am-6pm FH in use</p>
<p><b>25</b> 9am Adult SS 10am Worship 11am Choir practice</p>	<p><b>26</b> 8:30am Pinning &amp; Knotting</p>	<p><b>27</b> 5:30pm CS 6:30pm BB 7pm AB 7:30pm MM</p>	<p><b>28</b> 8am-12:45pm WC 12pm LL 12-2pm CFC accept donations 6:15pm Supper</p>	<p><b>29</b> 1-3pm CFC distribution 6:30pm DB tournament @ John Stewart</p>		



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 – Lyle Gottfried
- 2 – Mara Smalley
- 4 – BJ Ford
- 4 – Creston Getz
- 7 – Ron Gottfried
- 9 – Remy Barth
- 9 – Scott Ogg
- 11 – Judy Ault
- 12 – Deb Rife
- 17 – Rose Marie Amos
- 21 – Betty Knowlton
- 21 – Mike McGinn
- 24 – Dan Kiehl
- 25 – Karen Koehler



## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 – Sherm & Sally Stansbery (67<sup>th</sup>)
- 14 – Dean & Sharon Leonard (43<sup>rd</sup>)
- 18 – Steve & Jill Eyestone (35<sup>th</sup>)



We are collecting  
**PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY**  
 for the Christian Food Center this month.  
 Please bring your donations forward  
 during the offering.  
 Thanks for your help!

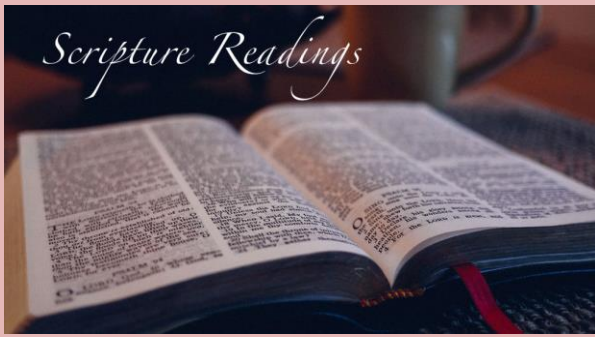


The pictorial directories are printed and ready to be picked up from the table at the crosswalk. Because we did them ourselves, they can be updated more often. Please keep Beth informed of any changes to your contact information!

### We're still collecting...



These must state "Manufacturer's Coupon" on them. No store coupons, internet coupons, or restaurant coupons can be used. We can send only coupons that are not expired more than 3 months. Please clip them and sort them into 4 categories: Food, Non-food, Baby, and Pet. There are collection containers at the crosswalk or you can drop them off at the office. These are used in overseas military commissaries. Thanks in advance!!!



## February 4

Isaiah 40:21-31  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23  
Mark 1:29-39

## February 11

2 Kings 2:1-12  
2 Corinthians 4:3-6  
Mark 9:2-9

## February 14 (Ash Wednesday)

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17  
2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

## February 18

Genesis 9:8-17  
1 Peter 3:18-22  
Mark 1:9-15

## February 25

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16  
Romans 4:13-25  
Mark 8:31-38



February's Mission Outreach budgeted dollars will go to

**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF.**

We encourage you to join us in giving directly throughout this month if you feel so moved. The mailing address is  
Lutheran World Relief  
PO BOX 17061  
Baltimore, MD 21297-1061

Women of the  
**ELCA**

**Ruth/Naomi Circle**  
will meet **Wednesday,**  
**February 7<sup>th</sup>**  
at **9:30am** in  
**The Gathering Place.**

**Martha Circle**  
will meet **Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup>**  
at **7pm** in the  
**Adult Sunday School room** which is  
beside the kitchen in the lower level  
of the church.  
**All are welcome!**







Thank you so much to everyone who remembered me with cards and gifts this past Christmas season! Your thoughtfulness and generosity warms my heart! I am beyond blessed by my loving church family!

Blessings back to you!

~ Beth

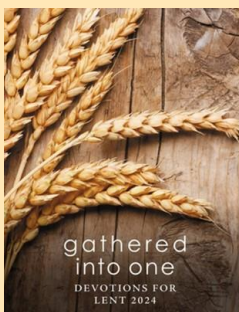


Thank you to all who helped or participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual St. Paul Chili Cook Off!

The winners were:

1<sup>st</sup> place Tom/Becky Vaughn and 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Missy Breidenbach

\$270 was raised from the Silent Auction. These funds will be put toward future mission projects.



**This year's Lenten devotional is available on the table at the crosswalk. Instead of giving something up for Lent, why not make a commitment to do these devotion every day??**

# Join us for

## The 4 S's

### (Second Sunday Social Stint)

When: Second Sunday of each month

Where: Youth Room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

Time: 8:30-9:30am

Why: For faith, fun, fellowship, &  
prep for 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans

Who: all youth in grades 6-12

It's once again time to start planning for VBS!

We are in need of a few people to co-direct programming for a week of fun for our kids and the kids in our community! Are you outgoing, able to encourage and excite Jesus' love for a crowd? It is ideal to have a lead person from each church to work together to carry out this endeavor...teamwork makes our VBS program work!

Also, there will be a need for other volunteers to help with various activities within our day. We have had great experience with those in the past and would love to be able to call upon them for their knowledge and time once again. But, without a few strong coordinators, we will be at a loss again for this summer.

Please prayerfully consider whether YOU could be that person to join in the fun and rewarding experience of directing our VBS program this year!

We will have an organizational meeting at First on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5pm. All those interested in being a part of VBS are encouraged to attend. We will need to secure dates and thoughts of programming (schedule & curriculum) and begin to find those integral parts to make this VBS one of our best yet!

Hope to see you there!



## *Community Lenten Luncheon Schedule*

It is time for a change! After 50+ years, there will no longer be separate women's and men's luncheons. They will be combined and held at St. Paul from noon until 1pm on Wednesdays. The other change is that we are moving to a free will donation instead of a set lunch price.

*February 14*

*Host - Transfiguration of the Lord*

*Menu - meatless spaghetti*

*Speaker - Keith Koehler*

*March 6*

*Host - Trinity Evangelical*

*Menu - soup & salad*

*Speaker - Steve Sturgeon*

*February 21*

*Host - Community Christian*

*Menu - Johnny marzetti*

*Speaker - Allene North*

*March 13*

*Hostess - John Steward Methodist*

*Menu - chicken & noodles*

*Speaker - Jan Stoneburner*

*February 28*

*Host - First Presbyterian*

*Menu - chicken salad croissants*

*Speaker - Jenni & Finn Larsen*

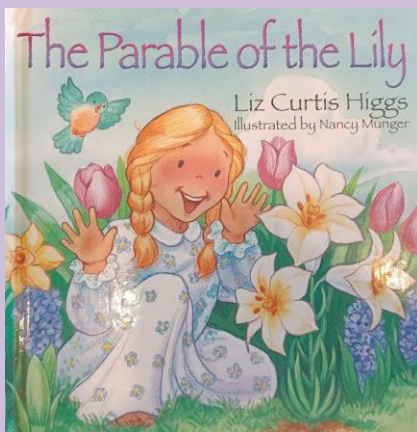
*March 20*

*Host - St. Paul & First Lutheran*

*Menu - chicken casserole*

*Speaker - David & Laura Bacon*

***PLEASE NOTE: IF NO SCHOOL - NO LENTEN LUNCHEON***



The year for the season of Lent, the kids coming to Jr. Church will participate in THE LILY PROJECT based on the book by Liz Curtis Higgs. The kids will be plating lily bulbs. The planting will take place during Jr. Church on February 18<sup>th</sup>, the first Sunday in Lent. They will talk about the Lenten Season each week and study forgiveness, Easter Science, and new beginnings as well as water the bulb. If your child is unable to attend the week we plant the bulbs, we will do extras for them to join in on the project. They will also be given Lenten scratch off calendars with a different good deed/thought for the day. Remember, they can't drive themselves to church, please bring them for the study of this Holy Season.



## Ash Wednesday



Lent begins on Wednesday, February 14. We will have worship at 7pm that evening which will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. Please join us for this reminder of our Lenten journey. Why not invite a friend to attend with you?



Our journey continues with midweek services each Wednesday during Lent. We will focus on the spiritual practice of lament. Our midweek gatherings begin with a light meal at 6:15PM followed by service at 7PM. If you would like to volunteer to provide a light meal for a Lenten midweek service, please let us know. A sign-up sheet is at the crosswalk.

During our Lenten journey you will also have the opportunity each Sunday and Wednesday to participate in our Lenten project. A basket with broken tile pieces will be available for you to write a lament or prayer. These will be anonymous and can be brought forward during communion on Sundays and during the reflection time on Wednesdays. The tiles will then be affixed to a cross at the front of the sanctuary. We hope you will join us.





**Easter is early this year! Therefore, we are starting to collect donations of individually wrapped candy to stuff into the Easter Eggs for our annual Community Easter Egg Hunt. Donations can be brought to the church office anytime. Please remember that the candy needs to fit inside a plastic Easter Egg! We will be filling the eggs at March's Mission Sunday which will be the 10<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars! Thanks in advance!!!**

