**April 2024**

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

3487 NORTH BOSTON ROAD

EDEN, NY 14057

716.992.9112

stpaulseden.com

 

 **Pastor: Rev. Thomas Lutz**

 **Director of Ministries: Tina Rigley**

 **Associate Director of Ministries: Lisa Hoover-Beller**

**Family/Youth Ministry Coordinator: Morgan Parnitzke**

 **Organist: Jacob DeGarie**

 **Caretakers: Kassidy Beller, Asher Parnitzke**

***LINKS to recordings of***

***our Worship Services***

***and all updates can be found on***

***our website: stpaulseden.com***

***Please call Pastor Lutz
(716.818.9860)
for any emergencies.***

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**Join us on Facebook:**

**St. Paul’s Eden Worship (public group)**

**St. Paul’s Lutheran Friends (private group)**

 **St. Paul’s Lutheran Church**

**Our Website**

**Don’t forget to check out our**

**amazing website! Information about services, events,**

**programs and schedules can be**

**found there! Go to:**

**stpaulseden.com**

**LIFE**

By Pastor Lutz

We have just celebrated the resurrection of Christ and in it we celebrate the upcoming date of our resurrection. It brings the question of what life is here, while we await for eternal life. In John 10:10, Jesus says he had come to give us life in “its abundance”. Jesus is telling everyone He is the gate by which you will enter the Kingdom of God. The question is: what is this “abundant life”? Is He talking about eternal life? That is part of it, I am certain. However, I don’t believe that is all he is talking about! He is also talking to us about having an abundant life here, on earth, while we wait to be called heavenward.

This abundant life is not meant to be a life of luxury filled with all of our wants and desires. To believe that is an earthly or unspiritual way of looking at life. An abundant life is one that starts with having a relationship with the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for us! God wants us to have the abundant life of Jesus. Not the life of the Messiah because there is only one Messiah. But we should look at the life of Jesus. We can see all the problems of His life, He didn’t have the most money, He had critics everywhere but He also had a life filled with relationships that were meaningful. With his earthly father and mother, His disciples and with those He ministered to. He lived a life of love which manifested in so many ways. He reached out with love that changed the life of people all around Him. His life was an “abundant life”. It wasn’t dependent upon everyone’s reaction to it, but He was living His life on His terms. Those terms were focused on loving people and bringing them to the knowledge of God’s love through the love he was sharing.

An abundant life is living in the glow of God’s love for you and sharing that love. Too often we judge our lives on perceived success or failures we have artificially set up for ourselves. There is only one goal in life: to love! People do not always respond well to that love-look at the Pharisees and how they reacted to Jesus loving others. Life is too short to be ruled by worldly ideas of what is important, let us live how we were given life through the love of God.

**IN-HOUSE WORSHIP SERVICES:**

**REGULAR SERVICES**

**Traditional Service**

**8:30 am (every week)**

**10:45 am (2nd & 4th Sundays)**

**Contemporary Service**

**10:45 am (1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays)**

**Wednesday Communion**

**(Chapel)**

**Service is Contemporary with Communion**

**11:15 am (2nd & 4th Wednesdays)**

**In addition to our in-house worship services, our live-stream worship services are on Facebook. Go to St. Paul’s Worship Group. Or go to our website: stpaulseden.com for a link.**

**OPTIONS FOR SEATING**

There is a pew located towards the back of church to assist those with limited mobility. This includes people who utilize wheelchairs, walkers, canes or crutches due to physical challenges, recent surgeries or injuries. We hope this is a welcome addition for anyone who may need accommodations- we are happy to provide a place for all to come and worship!

**VOTERS’ MEETING**

There will be a Voter’s Meeting on Sunday, April 21 immediately following the Early Service (9:30 am) in the Sanctuary. Everyone is welcome.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

Join Pastor on Sunday mornings at 9:30 to begin a new bible study on “the wisdom of God”. We will be starting with the opening chapters of Proverbs. We will also be looking at selected readings in Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs and Job.

**DEVOTIONS AT FOUR CORNERS**

Join Pastor at the Four Corners Café for a Devotion/Bible Study! The group will meet on Thursday, April 4 & 18 at 8:30 am.

**EDEN HEIGHTS BIBLE STUDY**

Bible Study with Pastor Lutz and Pastor Kate (Eden United Methodist Church) will meet at 1:30 pm at Eden Heights. They will gather on Thursday, April 11 & 25. They are studying the life of Jesus.

**CATECHISM BIBLE STUDY**

The Women’s Bible Study is transforming in a bible study where EVERYONE is invited to join! Starting in April, we will begin to study the catechism on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month from 9:30 am-11 am. Come and explore the catechism which contains the basic teaching of the Lutheran Church. Booklets have been available in the back of church, “A Simple Explanation of Christianity” for people to take. You did this when you were young but there is still so much to learn! Bonus- this time there is no required memory work!

**BOOK CLUB**

The next Book Club will meet on Monday, April 22 at 1pm at Linda Zittel’s home. The group will be discussing the book, “Lessons in Chemistry” by Bonnie Garmus. Call Cheryl Colvin at 716.992.4032 if you are interested in joining or have any questions. New members are always welcome.

**Are you going**

**into the hospital for**

**any type of surgery?**

**Pastor Lutz**

**would like to “visit”**

**with you before your**

**surgery to pray**

**with you.**

**Please call the church**

**office (716.992.9112) or**

**Pastor’s cell**

**716.818.9860**

**to let him know**

**of your surgery.**

**Contact Pastor Lutz at**

**716.818.9860**

**for any emergencies**

**ALZHEIMER’S**

**ASSOCIATION**

Website: alz.org/wny

24/7 Helpline

1.800.272.3900



 **THE L.E.G.O.S.**

 **House**

**A Community Spiritual**

 **Support Center**

***For further information on our support groups or to***

 ***inquire about***

 ***individualized***

 ***Christian Care by a trained Stephen Minister***

 ***or staff member,***

 ***please call 716.992.9112***



**POLICY BORROWING CHURCH PROPERTY:**

Tables and chairs can be requested to be borrowed by church members. Requests must be made with staff and accommodations made if scheduling allows. Items must be picked up and dropped off at a prearranged time when the staff is present. Drop off must be the following day after usage. Thank you!

**INFORMATION UPDATE:**

Please contact Lisa Beller at 716.992.9112 if any of your personal information has changed. Remember to contact us with your new address if you are moving. Thank you!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SYMPATHY**

Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to Sandy Davis and her family. Sandy’s mother, Beverly Herkey, was called to her heavenly home on March 3.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Terri Bradt and her family. Her dear husband, Rick Bradt, was called to his heavenly home on March 23. He will be very missed by many.

There will be a Memorial Service/Celebration of Rick’s Life on Saturday, July 27th at noon taking place at St. Paul’s. All are welcome to attend.

We can help YOU with your prayers. God is waiting for

your requests. Call us with any you might have. Please

make your special prayer

requests by calling our

Prayer Chain Coordinator,

Morgan Parnitzke at

716.992.9112.



 Please make your special prayer requests by calling

our Prayer Chain

Coordinator,

Tina Rigley

at 992.9112 or

texting 998.8726.

**PRAYERS**

**WE ARE HAPPY** to honor requests for prayersfor the sick especially when they are in the hospital, in rehab, in hospice or in a post op recovery. When your loved one has improved, please be sure to call Lisa Beller at 716.992.9112sowe can remove their names from the prayer list.

Periodically, the prayer committee will remove names from the prayer list. If you would like someone put back on, please contact Pastor Lutz or Lisa Beller at 716.992.9112.

**IN OUR PRAYERS** for the Lord's healing power we include the following members:

* **Sue Suffoletto**
* **Rose Hofner**
* **Harvey Quigel**

**PRAYER LIST**

Please contact the church office at 716.992.9112 to have a loved one placed on the Prayer List.

**IN OUR PRAYERS** for the Lord's healing power we include the following family and friends of our church members:

* **Albert Burkhart** (Cally Burkhart’s father)
* **Sue Kester** (Lynn Gerber’s friend)
* **Amanda Klein** (Mike Klein’s wife)
* **Daniel Snyder & Holly Uebhuler** (Jeff Snyder’s father & sister)
* **Josh Schmittendorf** (Carol Schmittendorf’s family)
* **Matthew Arthur** (Marsha Reding’s friend)
* **Julie Buzzard** (Kirsten Henderson’s friend)
* **Bill Robison Jr.**
* **Kerry Fitzgerald** (Cheryl Colvin’s friend)
* **Will Herrick & Annette Bove** (Amy Smith’s friends)
* **Lisa Bermingham** (Joshua Soule’s mother-in-law)
* **Jared Allen Wygant** (in the service- nephew of Cathleen Allen)
* **Sandy Macey** (Nancy Schettler’s friend)
* **Stefanie Wutz** (Laurie Agle’s daughter-in-law)
* **Joanne Pepper** (Patty Smoot’s friend)
* **Phillip** (Pastor Klahn’s friend)
* **Matthew Arthur** (Marsha Reding’s friend)

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

If there is a special date or a person you would like to honor, please consider placing flowers on the Altar. Please call Lisa Beller at 716.992.9112 **Thank you to all who placed an Easter lily on the Altar for Easter.**

**APRIL 7- In loving memory of Amos & Loretta Zittel and John & Phyllis Brzezicki** by George & Julie Zittel and Family

**APRIL 14- In loving memory of Philip II** by Phil & Ellyn Charette and Family

**APRIL 21- In loving memory of David Nenno and our families & friends** by the Family

**APRIL 28- In loving memory of Joe Klug** by Jean Klug, Julie Farrell, Jim Klug and Families

**MAY 5- In loving memory of Mom & Dad and Grandma** by Michelle, Greg, Owen & Caitlin Gonter

 Jeremiah 31:3 “Love yesterday, today and forever.”



**AVERAGE WEEKLY**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**ATTENDANCE**

SS & Adult Bible Study

 Mar 3- 52

 Mar 10- 48

 Mar 17- 51

 Mar 24- 62

 Mar 31- no class

**FINANCIAL**

**BAROMETER 2024**

 Thru March 31, 2024

 Budgeted to date $59,940

 Given to date $78,014

**THANK YOU**

 for your generous giving!!

 All of our bills are

 up to date!

 **

**AVERAGE WEEKLY**

**“IN-HOUSE” WORSHIP**

**ATTENDANCE:**

 Mar 3- \*122

 Mar 10- \*93

 Mar 17- \*119

 Mar 24- \*154

 Mar 31- \*\*377

 \*INCLUDES LENTEN SERVICES

 \*\*INCLUDES MAUNDY

 THURSDAY AND BOTH

 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES

 ***MANY THANKS FOR***

 ***CONTINUED SUPPORT***

 ***AND GENEROSITY!***

**L.E.G.O.S. HOUSE**

The L.E.G.O.S. House is used for support groups, supervisions and continuing education for Stephen Ministers, as well as contracted counseling and Outreach/ Workshops. From January 1, 2024- March 31, 2024 total usage was: 135 times

**Youth News**

**Creation Kids (ages 2-5; PreK)**

**Wonder Kids (K-1st)**

**Discovery Kids (2nd-5th)**

**Inspire Youth Group (6th-12th)**

 

**SPRING YOUTH MUSICAL**

On Sunday, April 28 during the 10:45 am worship service our St. Paul’s youth will be performing their Spring Youth Musical. There will be ONE PERFORMANCE and we hope to see you there to support our wonderful children! The musical is called “This Lost Sheep.” This story is based on the parable and has been given a special twist by Morgan Parnitzke so be sure not to miss this adorable show! We will be gathering in the Fellowship Hall for service that day! Refreshments will be served

immediately following the performance.

**STATEMENTS OF FAITH**

On Tuesday, April 16 at 7pm, our 2nd year Confirmation students will be presenting their Statements of Faith. Please join us in supporting our Confirmation youth! There will be cake and punch served in the Fellowship Hall following the presentations.

**CHURCH GROUNDS SPRING CLEANUP**

On Saturday, April 13 there will be a grounds clean up from 9 am-12 noon. Everyone is welcome! Please bring your own rake so you can pitch in and get the church grounds looking good! Lunch will be served.

**THRIVENT MEMBERS**

Giving back makes an important impact in people's lives. Last year alone, Thrivent Financial provided more than $100 million to help congregations, communities and individuals in need.

Members who own Thrivent Financial products help make this support possible. Thrivent Choice lets you recommend where some of Thrivent Financials charitable outreach funds go by directing Choice Dollars.

Remember: Even though you may have designated choice dollars in prior years, please check your account and make sure they are still designated to the non-profit of your choice. For information, please contact Jan Henry at 716.445.9974 or Jane Bohn at 716.992.3273. Thank you!

**LADIES’ GUILD SALE**

The Ladies’ Guild has a table of beautiful items on display for purchase in our Narthex. The Guild will use the money received to support their mission work. They truly appreciate of all of the support they have received!

**D&D MEETING**

The next D&D meeting will be on Sunday, April 7 at 1 pm. Meet at Genesis Gaming and Hobby in Eden. Please contact Pastor at 716.818.9860 for info.

**2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

If you would like to pick up your envelopes, please see a Church staff person. If you do not have envelopes and would like them please let Tina Rigley or Carolyn Lilequist know. Thank you!

**GROUNDS CREW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

We are looking for some active volunteers to join the church grounds crew. The grounds crew assist with:

-lawn mowing

-raking

-trimming

-general clean up

Please contact Bill Henry at 716.450.6039 for more information. Thank you!

**Church Board Highlights (March meeting)**

**Financials** -Thank you to counting teams; Average giving has been slightly lower than usual due to a couple of low weeks and the missed Sunday in January; 2023 Financials have been given to Pat Davis; Bills are up to date

**Worship**-People will be able to view worship services in the nursery very soon

**Music**-Youth Spring Musical rehearsals continue; Youth Worship Team continues and has been part of SS Opening; Adult Bells & Choir are performing for Palm Sunday

**Care**- SM Training continues and is going well

**Outreach**- Movie Night “After Death” is March 23; Pastor has completed the recording and editing of audiobook (thank to Brett Sutherland)

**Spiritual Growth**- In April, the Women’s Bible Study will be open to all (books will be available starting Palm Sunday)- it is a study of the catechism; Adult Bible study and confirmation continues; Statements of Faith will be on April 16; Holy Week Games will be during SS on March 24.

**Family/Youth-** Feb events were all very successful; Upcoming events include Family Easter Event and Easter Fellowship Event

**Trustees**-Request for volunteers to assist with grounds keeping has been put in bulletin & newsletter; Electrical work for fire inspection completed at LH and church; Spring Clean Up for church grounds has been set for Sat., April 13 from 9-12 (rain date is April 20).

**Need a ride?**

If you are in need of a ride there are resources available:

* Rural Transit Service-call 716.662.8378 for information
* Eden town car- call Eden Service Line at 716.992.3067
* Hamburg Van Service- call 716.646.0665

