**MARCH 2025**

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**

***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.***



**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**

**A WALK WITH JESUS**

**By Pastor Lutz**

For a long time, many Pastors have offered the picture of Lent as a walk with Christ to Jerusalem to witness the events of the Passion and Resurrection. I have been one of them. This year I wanted to take it a step further and really bring it into our daily lives. I would like to create an experience as though we, together as a church, are on a road trip with Jesus and at the end of that journey there will be the events that define our faith. Although each of us prepares differently for a road trip, there are usually some commonalities involved such as conversation, food, and music. The specifics of those choices regarding food and music would vary from person to person, as well as the aspects of our conversation.

This year as we go about our lives in the 40 days of Lent let us focus on our roles as we make this expedition. Let us be mindful, for at many times, the disciples who journeyed with Christ were obstacles in God’s plan. Let us pick up our cross and follow Christ with the blessing of 2000 years of hindsight and embrace the mission of Christ. How does this journey manifest itself in our lives?

Food, for me at least, is an important aspect to any trip. Although we cannot share our food with Christ, we can take time to consider that when we break bread every day we are eating with Him. We can approach our meals not only with a beginning prayer but with the conversation that happens when we share food together. Sharing with each other, and therefore with Christ, about how our days have unfolded, the blessings and challenges that arose during the day.

Spending more time in prayer can help us focus on talks with God. Share conversations with God as though you would with family and friends on a long road trip. Many times I’ve gotten to know people I love a lot better because we spent time sharing deeper things about ourselves as we traveled together. However, don’t leave this conversation only between you and God. Bring in others to the conversation by sharing your thoughts about God. Imagine the conversations you would have with your travel companion, including Christ. There is an understanding of what is going to happen and you can share discussion along the way with those who you are traveling with.

Finally the music! It is this component that will be the emphasis for our Wednesday Lenten services. What is the music we would listen to with Christ? I don’t want this to be a regular Wednesday evening like every day during Lent. Often we want to share the music in our lives with others so we can share what the songs mean to us. This doesn’t have to be only about religious music. For example, one of the songs I put into my play list is Bob Segar’s “Like a Rock.” This song has meant a lot to me but especially since I have gotten older. I will spend time with God and others to share what my experience has been as I get older and its positive and negative effects on my faith. Songs for me are prayers set to music and they can express our hopes and fears so we can share with others what we are feeling deep inside. Please pray and think about what music you would want to share with Christ and fellow church members as you journey with them. I know many people give up something for Lent but I find it more meaningful to add something special to our daily lives. Our mid-week services will focus on adding music and how it can help us focus on the spiritual meaning of Lent.

There will be an event set up on our St. Paul’s Friends Facebook page. In the comments please feel free to share the music you would take with you on this expedition with fellow church gatherers and Christ. I will be contributing as well. Feel free to not only share the sound selections you would pick but also the reason.

In addition to this journey on Wednesdays during Lent there will be a special gathering on March 12th. I will be on vacation and that has given Morgan and Tina an opportunity to create something special on our trip to Jerusalem together. As we stop for the night, to break from our travels, they are going to share with us a snapshot of the progression of Christian music through the centuries. In addition, they will be assisted by a couple of the Inspire Youth who wanted to be part of this journey. Come sing and explore music through the ages as we travel together to the cross and the empty tomb.

I hope we all approach this Lenten season with our souls open to the exploration of our faith with our eyes fixed upon Christ.

**LENTEN SERVICES**

Pastor will be hosting a Lenten experience, “A Walk With Jesus.” We, as a church, will travel with Christ to Jerusalem. Throughout the ages when people travel, they bring music. This year, on our spiritual walk to Jerusalem to witness the events of Holy Week with Christ and our fellow church goers, Pastor is requesting that you provide the music that you would want to share on this journey. Be sure to read his article in this newsletter for more information and check out the event posted on the St. Paul’s Lutheran Friends Facebook page. We will begin these services on March 5, with Ash Wednesday. On March 12, Pastor will be out of town and Morgan Parnitke and Tina Rigley will be having a Lenten Devotion-An Evening Reflection Through the Journey of Christian Music.

Lenten services will continue on Wednesdays throughout Lent: March 19, 26 and April 2nd & 9th. They will be begin at 7pm in the sanctuary.

**THE MEDITATION ROOM**

The Meditation Room Bible Study will be meeting on the 4th Thursday in March (3/27) at 7pm. Please meet in the LEGOS House. It will be an hour long, nontraditional music based bible study. The structure of the bible study will consist of Pastor choosing a few songs to listen to. Requests will also be taken and one song at a time will be heard by the group. The group will listen to the song, focusing on the lyrics and meditate on the meaning. Lyrics of the songs will be provided, along with a couple of appropriate bible verses. Following the mediation time, we will discuss what we get from the music.

**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 Thursdays, March 13 & 27. Pastor will be on vacation on March 13 but Pastor Kate will run the Bible study.

**CATECHISM BIBLE STUDY**

We will continue to study the catechism. Come and explore the catechism which contains the basic teachings of the Lutheran Church. We will meet on Wednesday, March 26 from 9:30 am-11 am.

**DEVOTIONS AT FOUR CORNERS**

Join Pastor at the Four Corners Café for a Devotion/Bible Study! The group will meet on Thursday, March 20 at 8:30 am.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

Join Pastor on Sunday mornings at 9:30 for a Bible Study.

**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 Contemporary Service with Communion (Chapel)**

**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.

**BOOK CLUB**

Look for information about the next book club in the weekly church bulletin. Call Cheryl Colvin at 716.992.4032 if you are interested in joining or have any questions. New members arealways 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.**

**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.***



 **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

 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:

* **Rose Hofner**
* **Harvey Quigel**
* **Cally Burkhart**
* **Gail Agle**
* **Dan Agle**
* **Laurie Morris**
* **Marge Witte**
* **Dave Zieziula**

**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:

* **Sue Kester** (Lynn Gerber’s friend)
* **Daniel Snyder & Holly Uebhuler** (Jeff Snyder’s father & sister)
* **Julie Buzzard** (Kirsten Henderson’s friend)
* **Bill Robison III**
* **Annette Bove & Jennifer Brooks** (Amy Smith’s friends)
* **Joanne Pepper** (Patty Smoot’s friend)
* **Laurie** (Gary Holscher’s friend)
* **Mary Hewson** (Nancy Theriault’s friend)
* **Ken Roberts** (Charmayne Zieziula’s family)
* **Laurie Gabel** (Dan Goodemote’s mother)
* **Angela, Darlene & Khadijah** (Mary Logan’s friends)
* **Maureen** (Dennis Horrigan’s sister)
* **Tamara Hoelscher** (Betty Gabel’s friend)
* **Chuck Westra** (Jeff Westra’s father)
* **Laurie** (Gary Holscher’s friend)
* **Debbie** (Tina Rigley’s friend)
* **Steve Lutz** (Pastor’s brother)
* **Larry** (Ellyn Charette’s friend)
* **Carla Sercu** (Ruth Ranke’s friend)

**IN SYMPATHY**

**Tom Gabel,** a dearly loved member of our congregation was called to his heavenly home on February 21. Tom was a former trustee and served our church with pride and respect. He always had a smile. Tom was a helpful and honest person and will be remembered in many ways.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Debbie Gangemi and family whose mother, Donna Brese, was called to her eternal home on February 21.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Eileen Seltzer and family whose mother, Janice McKay, was called to her eternal home.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Our best wishes to **Ryan & Paula O’Gorman** who were blessed with the birth of their daughter, **Paige Noelle,** on December 11.



**ALTAR FLOWERS**

If there is a special date you would like to have, please consider placing flowers on the Altar. Please call Lisa Beller at 716.992.9112.

**MARCH 2- - In loving memory of My parents, Glenn & Martha Nellis, and my brother, my sister & brother-in-law, Bill Nellis and Betty & Frank Mezen** by Glenn & Linda Nellis and family

**MARCH 9- In loving memory of Mackenzie Johnnie Gibbons. Forever in our hearts!** Love, Mommy, Daddy, Adeline & Taryn

**MARCH 16-** **In loving memory of Josephine Jane Westra** Love, Mom & Dad, Vicki, Arianna, Michael & Charlie

**MARCH 23- In loving memory of Our Parents, Clinton & Sarah Hardy and Amos & Loretta Zittel** by Paul & Linda Zittel

**March 30- In loving memory of Amos & Loretta Zittel and John & Phyllis Brzezicki** by George & Julie Zittel and Family

**April 6- In loving memory of Philip II** by Phil & Ellyn Charette and Family

**AVERAGE WEEKLY**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**ATTENDANCE**

**This includes youth and adult classes**

 January 26- 47

 February 2- 53

 February 9- 42

 February 16- 33

 February 23- 35

**FINANCIAL**

**BAROMETER 2025**

 Thru February 23, 2025

 Budgeted to date $46,700

 Given to date $36,060

 **THANK YOU**

 for your generous giving!!

 All of our bills are

 up to date!

**

 ***MANY THANKS FOR***

 ***CONTINUED SUPPORT***

 ***AND GENEROSITY!***

 **AVERAGE WEEKLY**

**“IN-HOUSE” WORSHIP**

**ATTENDANCE:**

 January 26- 124

 February 2- 141

 February 9- 101

 February 16- 83

 February 23- 102

**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, 2025- February 28, 2025 total usage was: 77 times

 **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!

  

 **Youth News**

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

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

**Discovery Kids (2nd-4th)**

**Confirmation Youth (5th-6th)**

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

 

**CONFIRMATION CLASS**

Confirmation classes continue on Tuesday evenings from 7-8 pm.

**YOUTH SPRING MUSICAL REHEARSALS**

Mark your calendars! The Youth Spring Musical “The Stories of Jesus” (written by Morgan Parnitzke) will be performed on Sunday, April 6 at the 10:45 am worship service. Join us to see a musical “story telling” of moments from the life of our Lord, Jesus Christ. This year the musical will take place in the Sanctuary.

**STATEMENT OF FAITH PRESENTATIONS**

On Tuesday, April 8 at 7pm, our 2nd year Confirmation student will be presenting their Statements of Faith. Please join us in supporting our Confirmation youth.

**D&D MEETING**

The next D&D meeting will be on Sunday, March 2 at 1 pm. Meet at Eden United Methodist Church. Please contact Pastor at 716.818.9860 for info.

**CHURCH UPDATE**

At the time of preparing this newsletter the following are the current updates: The work continues downstairs and the drywall is almost completed. Painting is being done in the sanctuary. Due to scheduling issues this is an ongoing project. In addition, a fire alarm system will be installed to protect the church building, and most important the people gathered there. We thank our church family for their continued patience as this immense project continues. There are many elements to this and we, gratefully, continue to move forward!

**NEW** **CARPET IN THE SANCTUARY**

The smoke from the fire had caused permanent damage to the carpet in the sanctuary. After three attempts to get it clean the insurance agreed to replace it. It is important to note that the type of carpet we have, and which is also what is recommended by the construction group and the carpet installer, is, unfortunately, one that is becoming obsolete. The Church Board and staff met to look over the options available for the recommended carpet. The Board decided on the two excellent choices for the Congregation to vote on. With the beautiful combination of dark wood of the pews and the light wood of the floors, along with the white walls and extraordinary stained glass windows, both colors were favorable selections.

We spent two Sundays collecting votes and we thank everyone who cast theirs! Based on the results, we will be moving forward with the red option. Our current carpet has served us well for many years, however, all carpets need to eventually be replaced and this is a timely upgrade for the sanctuary. We will keep you updated on the timeline for installation. It has been a time of change, flexibility and patience for all of us and we continue to be grateful for the blessings. Any changes can take some adjustment but when we approach them with an open mind and grateful heart we can experience them in positive way. We have so much to be thankful for at St. Paul’s!

**GIVING ENVELOPES**

Over the past few years the usage of giving envelopes for support of St. Paul’s has dropped dramatically. We recognize that for many this is simply not the convenient or the desired way to give. **This is not an issue** **at all and we want to stress that you do NOT need your envelopes to receive credit for your giving to the church**. As long as your name OR assigned number is with your giving, you will get credit. EVERYONE is given a number, if they use their envelopes or not. By using your name or number we can still record any giving and you will receive a statement for your giving. For those who do wish to continue to use their envelopes, please see Tina Rigley.

**BABY CARE KITS**

Our Ladies’ Guild will continue to collect items for the Lutheran World Relief’s Baby Care Kits through the month of March. They welcome any contributions our church members would like to give.

**The items are specific ones and should be new or like new please.**

Sizes 6 months to 24 months may be used. They can be placed in the collection box found in the upstairs coatroom off of the Church Narthex. There are the items needed:

 -Two light weight cotton T shirts

 -Two long or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers WITHOUT FEET -One jacket, sweater, or sweatshirt with a hood or include a baby

 cap

 -Two bath-size bars (4-5 oz) of gentle soap, such as Dove or

 Ivory

 -Four cloth diapers, flat fold preferred

 -One hand towel, dark color recommended

 -Two pair of socks

 -Two diaper pins or large safety pins

Please DO NOT substitute other items for the ones listed. If you have any questions please call Jane Barlow at 716.646.3094.

**LADIES GUILD**

Please consider checking out the Ladies’ Guild table in the Narthex. They are selling wonderful items that have been created by Ladies’ Guild members. All proceeds go directly back into the Guild to provide materials they use for service projects and missions.

**THE PEACEFUL CAREGIVER**

**FROM STRESSED TO BLESSED**

We will be offering a support ministry and growth opportunity to those who wish to travel the path to peace guided by scripture and sharing. The book, *The Peaceful Caregiver*, focuses on helping caregivers find peace and purpose in their roles.

Although this book is built for caregivers it is beneficial to all Christians who wish to establish a sense of peace, in this world, through God. This study guide acts as a support to caregivers and those who struggle to maintain a perspective of the beautiful blessing of taking care of each other. Scripture is shared that can help you quiet and feed your soul. Personal experiences are shared to create support during challenging moments and also to provide opportunities for reflection and growth.

Our Stephen Ministers are in the process of going through this support ministry that is a guide to peace. It has been a reflective, growing experience that is building them up in their caregiving and strengthening their relationship with God to obtain peace during all of life’s moments.

As the author, Mary Tutterow, states, “*The Peaceful Caregiver* is not only a map to help you, a caregiver, learn to love and care for yourself and others well, but it is also a call to the entire church, the blessed company of *all* faithful people, to awaken to who we are in Christ and why we are here- to love our neighbor as ourselves.”

**Our first meeting will be on Monday, March 24 from 7-8:30pm. If you would like to be part of this group please see Tina Rigley by March 9. Cost of the book will be $10. All participants will need the book prior to the first meeting. Pastor will also be offering a gathering during the day in the near future. If you prefer that session let Tina know.**

 **GROUNDS CREW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

We have a wonderful, dedicated group that maintains the church grounds, cemetery and LEGOS House lawn. We are looking for people to help them! There are different jobs to be done and it is a VERY flexible schedule. You can volunteer to do what works for you- a couple of hours a week or a couple of times a month. Perhaps you can only help in the spring or only in the summer months? No effort is too small.

Being part of the grounds crew is a helpful way to support the church. You are outside, the schedule is flexible and it is an integral part of maintaining St. Paul’s. **Please contact Dave Henry** at **716.544.0965**, the coordinator for the grounds crew, if you are interested or can help in any way. Any amount of time is appreciated and makes a difference!

 *Many hands make light work.*

**We have continued to be thankful for grounds crew volunteers- from years past to present! Your commitment and love of St. Paul’s is not only evident but very appreciated.**

