

St. Paul's  
Lutheran  
Church ELCA

401 Mill Street



January February 2024  
Bi-Monthly Newsletter

## Christ's Calling Card

From the December 17 Bulletin:

"St. Paul's has entered into a covenant with Pastor Karen Sparling to serve as a Synod Authorized Minister on a part-time basis for the period 1/1/24-1/1/25."

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus,

I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas.

Last summer in our vacation Bible school, the children of St. Paul's studied the armor of God as found in Ephesians 6:10-20. When we read this passage, we find that God has given us what we need to fight the battles in our lives. The truth is we have a real enemy. The Apostle Paul uses a military metaphor based on the Roman soldier's armor. We all know that Jesus defeated our enemy when he died on the cross and rose from the dead on Resurrection Sunday. However, the enemy is not jailed yet, he still roams the earth. This scripture outlines how we as His followers enforce Jesus' victory.

In verse 11, we are told to put on or take-up the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Worldwide things seem to be very unsettled. We have a real fight on our hands in the struggle to hold onto our purpose. God has given us what we need in His armor to fight these struggles. We need to put on the helmet called salvation because the strongest battles we fight are fought in the battleground of our minds. We need to renew our minds from thoughts of insecurity, discouragement, fear and doubt by the word of God. The breastplate of righteousness and truth protects us, because Jesus is our righteousness and He is the truth. We can't trust our own good works. Our only true freedom comes by hearing and abiding in the word.

Continued:



### Church Council

John Ornes

*President*

Joel Arndt

*President Elect*

Emily Bever

*Secretary*

Lori Brueggen

*Treasurer*

Kirsten Arndt

Barb Bever

Ayawyn Conner

Rachel Conner

Jerry Von Haden

Continued:

**When we wield the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God and our offensive weapon we do it in faith in God's promise to be faithful to His word. Another part of our armor is the shield of faith, which, we are told, quenches the fiery darts of the devil. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, and the evidence of things not seen. When we wield the sword, we do it in faith in God's promise to be faithful to His people.**

**We are to shod our feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace. In a world of uncertainty and fear, everyone is searching for peace. We have good news to proclaim. God's peace surpasses all understanding. It is not dependent on circumstances or people. Our peace is always found in Jesus Christ.**

**The battles we face daily are not with people or situations. We have an enemy who uses people and circumstances to try to steal our joy and victory. Remember to speak His promises, His word, in your prayers for the things you need and are trusting Him for. We must take up the armor of God daily; it helps remind us how powerful all of the components are because of the victory won by Jesus.**

**In this New Year, let us be mindful to be in God's Word and to pray daily. Remember we are privileged to commune with the one who is our Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty God, the Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. He is the Great I am.**

**May your New Year be filled with leaning new facets of the love of Our Father!**

**Blessings, Pastor Karen**



### **Annual Meeting**

We will hold the annual meeting, immediately following worship, on Sunday, January 28, 2024. This will not be your usual meeting where we pretty much rubber stamp items on the agenda and hurry home to have lunch. We have had conversations, both as a council and in congregational meetings, with regard to the replacement of the church steps, installation of a lift from the sanctuary to the basement level, and converting the downstairs bathroom to be in compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). Members of the congregation who have attended meetings have been affirmative in their support of all three, but have asked the council for a more definitive plan and cost analysis. The main topic at the annual meeting will be just that. We need not kid ourselves, this will be a major undertaking with significant costs. It is imperative for the members of the congregation to attend.

Contributed by Nalani

**WORSHIP NOTES FOR  
January/February**

The following are the Scripture readings we will be sharing in worship during the months of January and February, 2024.

***Baptism of Our Lord  
January 7***

Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29;  
Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

***Second Sunday after Epiphany  
January 14***

1 Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18;  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

***Third Sunday after Epiphany  
January 21***

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12;  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

***Fourth Sunday after Epiphany  
January 28***

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111;  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

***Fifth Sunday after Epiphany  
February 4***

Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c;  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

***Transfiguration of Our Lord  
February 11***

2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6;  
2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

***First Sunday in Lent  
February 18***

Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10;  
1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

***Second Sunday in Lent  
February 25***

Genesis 17:1-7,15-16; Psalm 22:23-31;  
Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

**THOSE SERVING IN JANUARY**

**ALTAR:**

Nalani and Greg Bever

**READERS:**

7<sup>th</sup> Barb Ornes

14<sup>th</sup> Barb Bever

21<sup>st</sup> Arlis Ballwahn

28<sup>th</sup> Miranda Arndt

**COMMUNION SERVERS:**

Lori and Joel Arndt

**THOSE SERVING IN FEBRUARY**

**ALTAR:**

Leonard & Dixie Arndt

**READERS:**

5<sup>th</sup> Justin Arndt

12<sup>th</sup> Karen Arzt

19<sup>th</sup> Bud Osteboe

26<sup>th</sup> Lori Arndt

**COMMUNION SERVERS:**

Justin and Kirstin Arndt

**Newsletter editors: Arlis & Larry Ballwahn  
email: [alballwahn@gmail.com](mailto:alballwahn@gmail.com)**

**Calendars, Church information & cemetery reports:  
Nalani Bever**

**Congregation pictures:**

**Contributed - Facebook - Barb Ornes**

**\*\*The Website & Facebook pages were developed &  
are administered by April Kroeger**

**April also developed the front page of the  
Newsletter**

**Newsletters, past and present, are on the  
Church Website in Color.**



## ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION JANUARY 29, 2023

President Justin Arndt called the meeting to order at 11:15 am with 31 members present.

President Justin offered a welcome and the opening prayer.

Motion by John Ornes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Greg Bever to accept the minutes of the 2022 meeting. MC

Larry Ballwahn of the Auditing Committee reported that the books were in order.

Motion by Joel Arndt, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Karen Artz to accept the Financial Reports. MC

The 2023 Budget of \$94,360 was presented as approved by the Council. Motion by Larry Ballwahn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dixie Arndt to accept the 2023 Budget. MC

The Nominating Committee of Bud Osteboe, Larry Ballwahn and Steve Brandau presented the following candidates: Motion by Nalani Bever, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barb Ornes to elect Joel Arndt as President Elect, Motion by Addison Arndt, 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Ornes to elect Emily Bever as Secretary, Motion by Barb Ornes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barb Bever to affirm Ayawyn Conner for her 2<sup>nd</sup> year, and Jerry Von Haden for his 2<sup>nd</sup> two year term, Motion by Greg Bever, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Karen Arzt to elect Barb Bever to complete a one-year term of Joel Arndt, Motion by Karen Arzt, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dixie Arndt to elect Kirsten Arndt and Rachel Conner for 2 year terms. All motions affirmed.

Committee Nominations were made: Cemetery: Leonard Arndt; SS Superintendent: Greg Bever; Financial Secretary: Barb Ornes, Dixie Arndt, Asst., Audit Committee: Barb Bever, Pam Brandau & Karen Arzt; Nominating Committee: Justin Arndt, April Kroeger, Angie Gruen, & Arlis Ballwahn, Assembly Delegates: Bud Osteboe & Carolyn Dougherty, Alternates: Arlis & Larry Ballwahn Motion by Arlis Ballwahn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Karen Arzt to accept the Committee Nominations. All nominations approved.

**Old Business:** Justin reported the organ installation is going forward. Some minor adjustments had to be made to the space and will be completed soon.

Justin also gave a brief synopsis of the progress on the front steps project. The initial designs were deemed too expensive for our congregation. The architect and contractor are working on additional plans.

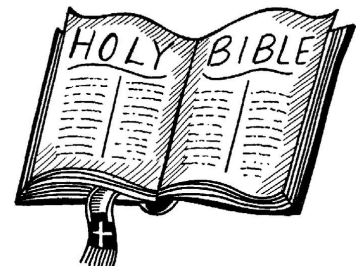
**New Business:** Addison Arndt, Rachel Conner and Kirsten Arndt gave a summary of the Transition Committee findings. Options for St. Paul's are an ELCA multi-parish ministry, a co-op with a non-ELCA congregation, becoming a satellite congregation of a larger church, a half-time pastor, if one could be found, or a lay-led ministry. Based on the findings the recommendation of the committee is to explore a co-op ministry with an ELCA congregation. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Larry Ballwahn. Motion by Pam Brandau, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bud Osteboe to explore the requirements to employ Karen Sparks as a lay minister. MC

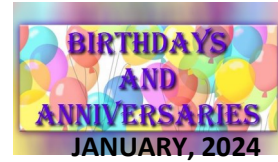
**President's Comments:** Justin reported that the kitchen renovation in the parsonage is completed. Much appreciation to Lori Brueggen and Nalani Bever for all the work done around the church and parsonage. Thank you for continued support of St. Paul's and the Council.

Bud Osteboe offered an acclamation of appreciation to Justin Arndt, Arlis Ballwahn, Angie Gruen and April Kroeger for their service on the Council.

Motion by Barb Ornes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve Brandau to adjourn the meeting. MC

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.





## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS JANUARY, 2024

### BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sat. 6 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 AM Quilting	4 <sup>th</sup> Rachel Conner
Sun. 7 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 AM Sunday School	5 <sup>th</sup> Jennifer Gruen
	10:15 AM Worship	6 <sup>th</sup> Spencer Arndt
Thur. 11 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 AM Quilting	8 <sup>th</sup> Addison Arndt, Lori Arndt, B. Holthaus
Sun. 14 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 AM Sunday School	14 <sup>th</sup> Vanessa Anderson
	10:15 AM Worship	15 <sup>th</sup> Sarah Culpitt
Sun. 21 <sup>st</sup>	9:00 AM Sunday School	17 <sup>th</sup> Kari Radke
	10:15 AM Worship - Pastor Hallemeier	18 <sup>th</sup> Gina Rae
Thur. 25 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 AM Quilting	19 <sup>th</sup> Ann McKelvey, Kevin Buchholz
Sun. 28 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 AM Sunday School	21 <sup>st</sup> Kelly Reuter
	10:15 AM Worship	22 <sup>nd</sup> Kurt Radke, Mia Anderson
	11:15 AM <b>Annual Meeting</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> Anna Radke

### FEBRUARY, 2024

Sat. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	7:-11:30 AM Blood Drive	
Sun. 4 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 AM Sunday School	
	10:15 AM Worship	
Thur. 8 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 AM Quilting	
Sun. 11 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 AM Sunday School	
	10:15 AM Worship	
Wed. 14 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship	
Sun. 18 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 AM Sunday School	5 <sup>th</sup> Stacey Brandau
	10:15 AM Worship	12 <sup>th</sup> Anita Steinke, Wayne Schindler
Wed. 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>*TBD</b> Mid-Week Lenten Service	14 <sup>th</sup> Scott Niedfeldt
Thur. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9:00 AM Quilting	21 <sup>st</sup> Lana Ross, Daphne Arndt
Sun. 25 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 AM Sunday School	22 <sup>nd</sup> Tyler Brandau
	10:15 AM Worship	26 <sup>th</sup> Karen Arzt, Jerry Von Haden

**\*TBD** At this time, we are unsure as to exactly what time or format the mid-week lenten services will be conducted.



## W-ELCA NEWSLETTER

### January February 2024



Our group has dwindled so there will be no scheduled General Meetings for 2024. Any meetings planned will be listed in the Worship Bulletin.

Scheduled Quilting dates are Saturday, January 6 from 8-10 am and Thursdays, January 11 and 25 and February 8 and 22 beginning at 9 am. We invite anyone who is interested in helping assembly quilts for Lutheran World Relief to come to the church basement and join in. You do not have to be a sewing “expert” to contribute. It would be helpful if you could bring a darning needle with a large eye and a small scissors. For any questions, please contact Arlis Ballwahn (608 435-6406), Louise Buchholz (608 435-6435) or Carolyn Dougherty (608 435-6265).

#### **SERVING COMMITTEE GUIDELINES**

The Funeral Committees have been combined due to declining participation. You may be called on a rotating basis to provide cake or bars. There will no longer be calls for donations, but if you wish to donate, contact Louise Buchholz or Arlis Ballwahn.

You may be asked to help in the dining area on the day of the funeral, for either set up or clean up after the meal. If you are able to help in any way, it will be appreciated. Post-funeral luncheons are very much appreciated by our families, and we hope to continue this tradition.

We all help others; we may be in need of similar assistance someday. Our task is based on the Biblical principle of loving others as Christ first loved us.

If you are asked to bring: Cake or bars – a 9 x 13 pan

Donations of \$5 can help to purchase any needed food or kitchen items.

**All women of St. Paul’s are members of W-ELCA and new faces are always welcome at any and all events.**

**From the W-ELCA site available on the St. Paul’s website (about us; links):**

#### OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

*“As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.”*

# WORLD HUNGER

**ELCA World Hunger** is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

Donate to **ELCA World Hunger** by indicating on your envelope or submitting a special envelope or check marked World hunger.

Go to [ELCA.ORG](http://ELCA.ORG) and put world hunger in the search box.

821 million people around the world - that's more than 1 in 10 - can't access the food they need to live active, healthy lives.

According to the most recent estimates, 736 million people live in extreme poverty on less than \$1.90 per day. That's 10% of the world's pop-

Hunger is all the same... Right? Sometimes people have said to me, "Why worry about hungry people in other countries? We have hungry people right here. We should take care of them first." My reply is, "It's not the same."

There are three levels of hunger:

**Level 1: Undernourishment:** the person is not getting enough nutrition to meet the minimum needs for an active life.

**Level 2: Malnutrition:** When the person is so badly nourished they are susceptible to infection & disease.

**Level 3: Wasting:** When the person has acute malnutrition leading to substantial weight loss & death.

The hungry people around here are probably in Level One: Undernourished. Maybe, occasionally someone would get into Level Two. But worldwide it's a different situation. Consider that everyday around 20,000 people die from hunger & hunger-related diseases. They were in Level Three. By far the most of these 20,000 who die are children, through no fault of their own. They may be infants of mothers who are so malnourished themselves that they cannot produce enough milk. They may be orphans whose parents have both died, or they have been abandoned because the parent or parents could no longer afford to feed them. The reasons for hunger are many & complicated.

We do not have the level of poverty & hunger that is experienced in many places in the world. Don't get me wrong. I'm not saying we should ignore the needy here in our area. I'm saying that our outreach to the hungry here & the outreach to world hunger are two different missions. We should not choose one over the other, nor should we consider them the same thing, for it is hunger on two very different levels. Yes, we need to minister to the needs of the hungry in our area, but we cannot ignore the 20,000 that are dying every day.

In Christ, Bob Weeks, Synod World Hunger Subcommittee.



**Creatively and  
courageously working  
toward a just world  
where all are fed**

Paul Jeffrey, ACT



Happy New Year 2024

Inviting people to journey with Christ's family in spreading God's love and mercy.

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**  
"A Welcoming Place for over 125 years"  
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