

# ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

## IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 30, 2025

### FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away . . . the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!

### ADULT FORUM

We continue our series of Adult Forums led by Pastor Cris. We'll focus on the Gospel readings with maybe a little bit of art thrown in as we explore our Lenten theme, "Full to the Brim." Join the conversation as we move beyond thinking of Lent as a season to "give something up" and more about how God fills our lives with what we need. We start at 8:30 AM on Sunday mornings in the Blue Room.

### SOUNDING BRASS REHEARSAL

If you play a brass instrument – trumpet, horn in F, baritone, trombone, or tuba – it's not too late to join our brass ensemble for Easter. Please contact our Director for Music and Worship, Mike Bareham, at [music@stpaulsnewarkde.org](mailto:music@stpaulsnewarkde.org). The Sounding Brass rehearse on Tuesdays from 4:15 – 5:30 PM, through Holy Week.

### PRAYER LIST

Our prayer list is being published in our weekly email that goes out every Thursday. If you'd like a paper copy of the list, please contact Jerilynn at [office@stpaulsnewarkde.org](mailto:office@stpaulsnewarkde.org) or Pastor Cris at [pastor@stpaulsnewarkde.org](mailto:pastor@stpaulsnewarkde.org). We will not be publishing the prayer list in the bulletin so that it is not published on our webpage. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Cris.

## HOLY HIKE

Our next Holy Hike will be on Saturday, April 12, when we will join the Delaware Saengerbund Hiking Club for a 4 - 5 mile beautiful, wooded, flat hike on the Susquehanna Greenway "Bluebell" Trail. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Grund at lgrund923@gmail.com or Rudy Schock at [rschock324@gmail.com](mailto:rschock324@gmail.com).

## EASTER BRUNCH

We will be having an Easter brunch following service on Sunday, April 20. **To aid in our planning, please use the sign-up posters in the narthex.** If you have any questions, please contact Cheri Simons 302-345-6573.

We will be collecting a free-will offering during the brunch to aid those in our community who need our help. All the donated funds will help us to continue care for those who are hungry through our participation in the Hope Dining Room. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

## BREWING THEOLOGY

For everyone 21 and older, please join us on Wednesday, April 9, at 7:00 PM at the Delaware Saengerbund for a tasty beverage, some snacks, and some hearty conversation. Our topic for this week will be "Finding Purpose and Meaning in Life".

## BOOKS AND BANTER

St. Paul's avid readers meet the fourth Wednesday of each month at 1:00 PM in the Youth Room. If you have a book that you would like to share with the group, please let us know. Please join us for conversation and fellowship. The book for our April 23 gathering is "Horse" by Geraldine Brooks.

## NAC SPRING CONCERT

Come hear the New Ark Chorale as they present "The Great Poets Sing" on Saturday, April 5, at 3:00 PM. Tickets available at the door.

# Vital Signs

	Feb. 2025 Activity (\$)	YTD Balance (\$)	Budget YTD (\$)	Over/Under YTD + (-) (\$)	Feb 2025 Avg. Sunday Attendance	YTD Average Sunday Attendance
TOTAL INCOME	27,547.91	27,547.91	36,504.00	(8,956.09)	107	107
TOTAL EXPENSES	34,647.21	34,647.21	36,304.00	(1,656.79)		
DIFFERENCE	(7,099.30)	(7,099.30)	200.00			

- **Income:** YTD is 25% (\$8,956.09) behind YTD budget projections. Both pledged and unpledged income lag behind budget estimates.
- **Personnel Expenses:** YTD are 4% (\$382.78) above budget due primarily to increased benefit and FICA expenses.
- **Utility Expenses:** YTD are 57% (\$1540.54) above budget YTD due to high natural gas charges.
- **All Other Expense Categories** (Administration, Worship & Music, Faith Formation, Property Maintenance, Committee, Mortgage and Benevolence): are running at or under budget.



**Sunday, April 13**

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION**

As Jesus enters Jerusalem, the multitude of disciples begins to joyfully shout with praise. The Pharisees try to silence them, but Jesus responds: “I tell you, even if these were silent, the stones would shout out.” All of creation cries out with praise—that message rises above the noise, even if the oppressive powers want to silence it. As we begin our walk through Holy Week, let us ask: What can’t be silenced? What must be said? What things can we not stay quiet about? What is bubbling up that we need to give voice to—faith questions, apologies, issues of justice, truth-telling? As we go deeper into the story, the truth will soon be set free.

***10:00 AM Service of Holy Communion—Live Streamed***

**Thursday, April 17**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

In a room full to the brim with emotion, Jesus offers a tender, loving, and humble goodbye, stooping low to wash and caress his disciples' feet. Like the water splashing within the washbasin, his actions ripple out: "Go and do likewise. Just as I have loved you, love one another." We can't fully give without receiving also; love is designed to be shared. As is the case for Peter, receiving selfless, poured out love fundamentally changes us. It's a practice of surrender and letting go. It reminds us of how God loves us. And so, on this evening, remove the walls and protective layers you have built up. Allow yourself to be loved fully by God. Allow yourself to be filled to the brim so you can go out and fill others too.

*7:00 PM Service of Holy Communion—Live Streamed*

**Friday, April 18**

**GOOD FRIDAY**

On this day, we grieve the violence of humanity. In John's account of Jesus' death, Jesus' final words are: "I am thirsty. . . it is finished." He is offered a jar full of sour wine as he takes his final breaths. And yet, even here, God's love is full, poured out, self-emptied. Even in his last moments, Jesus is overflowing with truth and the fullness of the human experience. God embodies the fullness of pain and deep sorrow. And so, in the silence of this day, let us, too, sit in the fullness of this cup of sorrow.

*7:00 PM The Way of the Cross—Live Streamed*

**Sunday, April 20**

**RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD**

When the women find the tomb empty, they are stunned by the presence and words of the men in dazzling clothing—and yet, they remember. Even in utter shock, they return to their deep knowing and allow themselves to receive the expansiveness of resurrection. Many of the disciples won't open themselves up to this expansiveness and reject their testimony. Peter is curious enough to return to the tomb, and as a result, he is filled with amazement and awe. How do we carry forth what we have learned this Lent? Can we be curious enough to return and remember? Can we allow ourselves to be filled with expansive hope? Can we trust in the expansive promise of new life, and carry that promise with us wherever we go?

*10:00 AM Festival Service of Holy Communion—Live Streamed*

**Easter brunch to follow worship in Fellowship Hall**





# EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

St. Paul's will be ordering an assortment of flowers for our celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord on Sunday, April 20.

**ORDERS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, MARCH 30.**

*Please place completed form in the offering plate or send it into the church office.*

*Payment can be made by cash, check, or by clicking the "Easter flowers" tab on the drop down menu using [Tithe.ly](https://Tithe.ly), accessed by the QR Code below.*

I/we would like to order a total of \_\_\_\_\_ 6" Easter lilies (5+ bloom) at \$11.00 each.

I/we would like to order a total of \_\_\_\_\_ 6" Tulips (6 bloom) at \$8.00 each

Color and quantity \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Yellow \_\_\_\_\_ Purple/Lilac

I/we would like to order a total of \_\_\_\_\_ 8" Tulips (10 bloom) at \$13.00 each

Color and quantity \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Yellow \_\_\_\_\_ Purple/Lilac

I/we would like to order a total of \_\_\_\_\_ 6" (3 bloom) Hydrangeas at \$8.00 each

Color and quantity \_\_\_\_\_ Pink \_\_\_\_\_ Blue

I/we would like to order a total of \_\_\_\_\_ 6" Cushion mums (assorted) at \$9.00 each.

I/we would like to order a total of \_\_\_\_\_ 6" Daffodils (yellow) at \$8.00 each.

Total:     \$ \_\_\_\_\_     Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_

Paid by:    [   ] Cash        [   ] Check # \_\_\_\_\_

[   ] [Tithe.ly](https://Tithe.ly) online giving (Please pay the processing fee.)



Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

*Additional dedications can be written on the other side or on another piece of paper.*



# St. Paul's Lutheran Church Welcomes All in Jesus' Name

Phone/Fax: 302-368-0064 Website: [www.stpaulsnewarkde.org](http://www.stpaulsnewarkde.org)

*Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully.*



## The Reverend Cris Frigm

*Pastor*

302-368-0064 ext. 104

[pastor@stpaulsnewarkde.org](mailto:pastor@stpaulsnewarkde.org)

## Jerilynn Hinrichs

*Office Administrator*

302-368-0064 ext. 101

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## Church Council

Anne Sullivan, *President*

Greg Johnson, *Vice President*

Heidi Burch, *Secretary*

Mary Collins, *Treasurer*

Kristine Cassar, Phillip Gerecke,

Winnie Hull, Ian Kenyon, Susie Olson

## St. Paul's Online Prayer Ministry

Send prayer requests to:

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

the church office at [office@stpaulsnewarkde.org](mailto:office@stpaulsnewarkde.org)

## Michael Bareham

*Director for Music and Worship*

302-368-0064 ext. 123

[music@stpaulsnewarkde.org](mailto:music@stpaulsnewarkde.org)

## Nalini Janaki

*Business Administrator*

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[business@stpaulsnewarkde.org](mailto:business@stpaulsnewarkde.org)

## Vacant

*Early Education Director*

St. Paul's Lutheran School

302-368-0064 ext. 118

[stpaulschool@comcast.net](mailto:stpaulschool@comcast.net)

## Weekly Epistle/E-mail Blast

Articles due by Wednesday morning at

10 AM. Late submissions will be shared

the following week. Please send articles to

[office@stpaulsnewarkde.org](mailto:office@stpaulsnewarkde.org)

**WISH TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES  
OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH?  
THEN SCAN THIS QR CODE**

