

CHRIST'S CALLING CARD

MARCH – APRIL, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It may seem early to be talking about Easter/Resurrection Sunday, but it is important, and we don't just count it as another holiday, we want to allow this season of Lent and Resurrection to impact our faith walk.

Remember the Bible is essentially God's great love story for us. The story begins all the way back in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve when their disobedience opened the door for the sin that entered the world, and along with it came the pain and suffering that we still deal with today.

March 5th is the start of the 40-day period leading up to Easter. The ash used on Ash Wednesday symbolizes grief and sorrow over sin (ours and that which is so evident in our world today) and points us to repentance.

It is during this 40-day period when we can purposely step up our prayer and Bible time by purposely fasting some things like a meal, some TV or gaming time, or whatever is on your heart. It's also a time when we can look for areas that we purposefully give of ourselves through our time, talent, and/or treasure, reminding ourselves that Jesus gave it all.

Let's look at some of the other aspects of the Lenten season.

Palm Sunday: The journey begins with Jesus' entry into Jerusalem amidst cheers and palm branches, known as Palm Sunday. This event signifies the start of Holy Week, where Jesus shared the Last Supper with his disciples before his betrayal by Judas Iscariot, initiating communion.

Good Friday: This is the day of Jesus' crucifixion and death on the cross, a solemn day of remembrance for Christians worldwide. The sacrifice made on this day serves as a reminder of God's unconditional love for humanity.

Resurrection Sunday: Resurrection Day dawns with the miraculous event of Jesus rising from the dead, leaving an empty tomb, conquering sin, and offering salvation to all who believe. This joyous occasion celebrates new beginnings and eternal life through Christ's resurrection.

Why we celebrate: Easter serves as a reminder of hope, new life, and the love of God for all of us, His children. It symbolizes the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil and life over death. In our world today, we need this good news more than ever.

In His service,

Karen

STEPS REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Bids on the project are being opened on March 11. We are aware of 3 or 4 general contractors who pulled bid documents, and are hopeful we will receive at least 2 bids.

150th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONGREGATION

In 1875, when St. Paul's Lutheran Church began, the members met in Mitchel or Slabtown school buildings, about 1¼ miles south of Wilton, for their worship. The congregation was incorporated in 1883 under the laws of the State of Wisconsin. The cemetery was purchased from O. N. Hillger on July 14, 1892 and the land consecrated on July 31.

We are planning a worship service in November to commemorate this milestone.

Thank you to the Saints of St. Paul Lutheran Church!

On behalf of the presiding Bishop and all those impacted in life-giving ways because of your generosity, thank you! Thank you for your gifts earlier in February of \$6,000 for the critical work of Lutheran Disaster Response with the California Wildfires and for the Middle East Crisis. Your giving means the world, especially in these challenging times. Thank you!

Did you know that beyond Mission Support you give through the synod, that St. Paul Lutheran has given a combined \$ 57,419.70 over 29 years for ELCA Ministries! Those generous gifts include support for ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response, missionaries and other ELCA Ministries.

Thank you for continually looking beyond your doors to care for your neighbors. Thank you for making Christ's love known in this season of Epiphany and always! Please know that because of you and your generosity, that many who have felt hopeless and forgotten, now know what it is to feel life and hope again. Thank you for the many ways that you live out your faith and have made God's love real to neighbors of all kinds.

Thank you for making the love of Christ known in this season of Epiphany and always!

God's blessings to you,

Rev. Kevin Woestehoff
Mission Funding Director, Region 5
Office of the Presiding Bishop

God called two of his Saints “home” this week. They each left us with wonderful memories and the lesson of loving their Lord and Savior. Rest in peace, our dear friends.

Edward C. Ross Obituary

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Edward (Ed) Charles Ross Jr., 73, of Wilton, Wisconsin, on February 24, 2025, following a brief illness. Ed, a devoted son, brother, uncle, and faithful servant of God, peacefully entered the presence of the Lord, surrounded by his loving family.

Ed was born on October 4, 1951, at 8:35 a.m. to Edward and Shirley (Wambaja) Ross at Sherman Hospital in Elgin, Illinois. Raised in a home filled with love, he shared his childhood with his three brothers, who were his lifelong companions and closest friends. Ed was baptized into the Christian faith on April 19, 1953, at Zion English Evangelical Church in Elgin.

After graduating from St. Charles High School in 1969, Ed attended Elgin Community College and Illinois State University for four years before working at Stewart Warner Warehouse. In 1975, he moved to Wilton, where he farmed alongside his father until his retirement.

A longtime member of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Wilton, Ed was known for his unwavering faith. He sat faithfully in the last pew each Sunday, and for many years, he participated in the Maundy Thursday reenactment of the Lord’s Supper, playing the role of James, the Son of Alphaeus. Ed’s commitment to his church family was evident in many ways, including his generous blood donations for the church-sponsored Red Cross blood drive. To his church family, Ed was a beloved friend, and we find comfort knowing that now, he sits at the front of the church, close to the Lord.

A passionate fan of the Chicago Bears and Cubs, Ed remained hopeful each season that “next year” would be their year. He loved spending Sundays watching football with his family and was an active participant in local sports, playing softball for Geier’s IGA and enjoying ice skating and hockey in his younger years. Ed’s greatest love, second only to his faith, was his family. He took immense joy in hosting family gatherings, especially his legendary annual 4th of July fireworks show, always followed by his signature pineapple upside-down cake. Visits with Ed always ended with his warm and welcoming words, “Come again.”

Ed was preceded in death by his brother, Ron (Sue Ross Brueggen), and his parents, Edward and Shirley Ross. He is survived by his brothers Larry (Vickie) and Rob (Lana), as well as his nieces Sarah, Becky, Bethany, Caitie, Kristen, Erin, and Amanda; his nephews Tim and Ryan; and many great-grandnieces and nephews who will carry on his legacy.

Ed’s life was a mix of faith, humor, love, and an unshakable hope that one day, the Bears and Cubs would actually pull it off. While we’ll miss him, we know he’s enjoying a front-row seat in heaven, cracking jokes with the angels and reminding everyone there’s always next year. Rest in peace, Ed—you may not have won a Super Bowl, but you certainly won at life.

Funeral Services will be held on Sunday, March 2, 2025, 2:00 PM at the St. Paul Lutheran Church, 401 Mill St. Wilton, WI. Karen Sparling will officiate.

Relatives and friends are invited for a time of visitation on Sunday, 12:30 PM at the church. Online condolences may be offered by visiting www.sonnenburgfamilyfh.com. The Smith- Nelson Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

Harlow "Bud" Beck Osteboe Obituary

Harlow Beck "Bud" Osteboe of Wilton, WI died on 2/25/2025 following a short illness. His beloved wife of 55 years, Carol A. Osteboe (nee Eckelberg), preceded him in death in June 2019.

Bud was born in Windom, MN on 8/16/1936 to Edith Beck Osteboe and Harlow Andrew Osteboe. After his father left the family when Bud was nine years old, he and his two sisters, Joyce and Phoebe, were raised by their mother and extended family. Bud was a proud southern Minnesota "flatlander" and carried a life-long respect and gratitude for the people of that area, especially for the cadre of family and men of the Trimont, MN community who helped launch him into adulthood.

Bud graduated from Central High School in Waseca, MN in 1954. In August 1956, instead of enrolling in dental school as planned, he asked an Air Force recruiter, "How do you get into Air Force pilot training?" That launched a career and enduring love with flying.

After five years as a U.S. Air Force pilot flying B-25s, he returned to Minnesota to pursue a Bachelor's degree at the University of Minnesota while serving in the Minnesota Air National Guard flying KC-97 aircraft. His Guard unit was activated for a year of duty in September 1961 in response to the Second Berlin Crisis. He eventually earned his Bachelor's from U of MN in 1964. During this period of time, he met and married Carol Eckelberg of Wilton, WI. "It was the most fortunate event of my life," he frequently told people. They went on to raise their two sons, Thor and Paul; care for their elderly parents; support one another in their professional pursuits; and enjoy a variety of travels, symphony concerts, and family memories together.

In 1965 Bud was hired as a pilot by United Air Lines based out of Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, flying both domestic and international routes. The family lived in Wheaton, IL.

Bud soon became heavily involved in the administration of the national Air Line Pilots Association pensions and specialty insurance programs, and also in those of the International Federation of Air Line Pilots Associations based in London. In 1994 at a meeting in Hong Kong, he was honored by International Federation for his efforts in helping negotiate and implement pension and specialty insurance programs for pilot groups of the former Iron Curtain countries. He ended his career at United as a line pilot, after serving as head of the United Pilot group and member of United's corporate Board of Directors during the early period of employee ownership.

As retirement approached, Carol and Bud decided to make their home among the beautiful hills of western Wisconsin in Carol's childhood hometown of Wilton. They had purchased farm land just south of Wilton when their sons were young and spent a great deal of family time planting trees on the property. Local builder Bob Braund built their new home on this land. Bud was fortunate to have been able to stay in his home until just a few weeks prior to his death.

Bud is survived by two sons: Thor (Megan) of Plymouth, MN and Paul of Golden, CO; seven grandchildren: Gunnar of Salt Lake City, UT, Karena, Kirsten and Maren of Plymouth, MN, Sara of Evergreen, CO, Jiselle and Gretchen of Golden, CO; many beloved nieces and nephews and numerous cherished friends. In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by his mother and two sisters.

A Visitation will be held from 4-7 pm on Friday, March 7 at Smith Nelson Funeral Home in Wilton.

A private burial will take place on Saturday, March 8 followed by a Celebration of Life Service at 1:30pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Wilton.

Donations in Bud's memory may be made to St. Paul's Lutheran Church Scholarship Fund, www.stpaulswilton.com or 401 Mill Street, Wilton, WI 54670

The Smith-Nelson/Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home is assisting the family. Online condolences can be offered by visiting www.sonnenburgfamilyfh.com

THANK YOU SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN

The Sunday school children made the valentines that the W-ELCA sent to several older members of the congregation. The children had a great time doing this and were excited to take part in the project. Thank you!!

We also want to thank Louise Buchholz for organizing the project and helping the children as they prepared the valentines. The Sunday school teachers and Karen also helped. Louise delivered the extra valentines to the residents of the nursing home in Elroy.

SPRING CONVENTION OF THE LA CROSSE AREA SYNOD W-ELCA

St. Stephens Lutheran Church of Camp Douglas will be hosting the convention on April 26, 2025. This is a day of learning and fellowship. One of the topics we are pursuing is the southern border. Speakers with firsthand knowledge of the southern border as well as other topics will be making presentations. The W-ELCA newsletter, "Crosswinds", published in mid-March, will be providing additional information on the speakers and topics. Did you know you could access "Crosswinds" on your computer? Just search lacrosseareasynod.org/welca.

Pre-registration will be necessary and that form will be in the newsletter. "Crosswinds" is a publication of the W-ELCA, published twice a year and is an excellent source of information for all Women of the ELCA.

Coming this September; plans are in the works for a river cruise on the Mississippi River. Sounds like fun!!

Every woman member of St. Paul's is invited to be an active member of W-ELCA. For further information contact Louise Buchholz.

LUKE'S DINER

We'll be trying out a new format this Lenten season. Beginning on Wednesday, April 12th, we will gather in the basement at 6:00 PM, enjoy a soup & sandwich meal and hold a discussion on Bible verses from Luke. Karen will read a short homily prepared by a member of the East Conference. One week, the homily may have been prepared by Dawn, the next by Margo, and even by Karen. The meal and service will last an hour. Come and join us.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Spring forward on March 9th ! This means you'll be able to come to, and leave Luke's Diner in daylight.

In case of emergency, you may contact (text or call):

Karen Sparling, Synod Authorized Minister 608-387-2488
Nalani Bever, Office Manager 608-387-2311
Joel Arndt, Council President 608-633-2058

To activate **prayer chain**, please contact Nalani Bever, 608-387-2311

Additional contact information:

Karen: snooky2ndgr@yahoo.com

Nalani: nalanib@gmail.com

Church: wiltonchurch@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.stpaulswilton.com/>

FACEBOOK!! Home page: St. Paul's Lutheran Church Wilton WI

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Joel Arndt, President
Karla Richie, President-Elect
Emily Bever, Secretary
Barb Bever, Treasurer
Steve Brandau, St., Property Committee Chair
Lori Brueggen, Finance Committee Chair
Kirstin Arndt, Social Ministry Committee Chair
Rachel Conner, Education Committee Chair
Ayawyn Conner, Worship Committee Chair

Staff:

Nalani Bever, Office Manager & Organist
Allyson "Ally" Brueggen, Janitress

WORSHIP NOTES FOR

March, April

The following are the Scripture readings we will be sharing in worship during the months of March and April, 2025.

Transfiguration of Our Lord - March 2

Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99;
2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2; Luke 9:28-36

Ash Wednesday - March 5

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10;
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

First Sunday in Lent - March 9

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16;
Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

Second Sunday in Lent - March 16

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27;
Philippians 3:17—4:1; Luke 13:31-35

Third Sunday in Lent – March 23

Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8;
1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

Fourth Sunday in Lent – March 30

Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32;
2 Corinthians 5:16-21;
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Fifth Sunday in Lent - April 6

Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14;
John 12:1-8

Palm Sunday - April 13

Procession of Palms: Luke 19:28-40;
Isaiah 50:4-9a;
Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 22:14—23:56

Maundy Thursday - April 17

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19;
1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday – April 18

Isaiah 52:13—53:12; Psalm 22;
Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1—19:42

Easter Sunday – April 20

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24;
1 Corinthians 15:19-26; Luke 24:1-12

Second Sunday of Easter – April 27

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24;
1 Corinthians 15:19-26; Luke 24:1-12

THOSE SERVING IN MARCH

READERS:

2nd Justin Arndt
9th Greg Bever
16th Alaina Holthaus
23rd Arlis Ballwahn
30th Barb Ornes

ALTAR: Kirstin & Miranda Arndt

COMMUNION SERVER: Justin Arndt

THOSE SERVING IN APRIL

READERS:

6th Karla Richie
13th Karen Arzt
20th Sunrise Service: Joel Arndt
10:15 AM Service: Kirstin Arndt
27th Miranda Arndt

ALTAR: Nalani & Greg Bever

COMMUNION SERVER: Steve Brandau, Sr.

QUILTING NEWS 2025

The quilting group have completed 10 quilts for LWR and several baby quilts. Lori Brueggen has generously applied Thrivent grants to supply us with sheets for backs and batting for middles. We are in need of tops. If you would like to sew quilt tops for LWR, we could use the help. It is simple, straight sewing. Nothing fancy required. There is material available on the stage area of the basement or you can use remnants that you have.

Contact Louise Buchholz (608/435-6435) or Arlis Ballwahn (608/435-6406) for information.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS				BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES			
MARCH				MARCH			
SU	2 nd	Sunday School	9:00 AM		2 nd	Patty Von Haden	
		Worship	10:15 AM		3 rd	Krista Cook	
W	5 th	Ash Wednesday	7:00 PM			Dennis Dougherty	
SA	8 th	Movie @ Elroy	2:00 PM		5 th	Matt Bever	
SU	9 th	Sunday School	9:00 AM			Katie Pagel	
		Worship	10:15 AM		9 th	James Brandau	
		Church Council	11:15 AM		11 th	Darren Gruen	
W	12 th	Supper/Service	6:00 PM		15 th	Callie Fleming	
SU	16 th	Sunday School	9:00 AM		16 th	Vanessa Ornes	
		Worship	10:15 AM		17 th	Don & Gail Riedesel	
W	19 th	Supper/Service	6:00 PM		19 th	MaKenzie Powell	
SU	23 rd	Sunday School	9:00 AM		20 th	Joel Arndt	
		Worship	10:15 AM		21 st	Curt Dougherty	
W	26 th	Supper	5:00 PM		22 nd	Dean Brandau	
		Worship	6:00 PM			Phyllis & Jan Brandau	
SU	30 th	Sunday School	9:00 AM		23 rd	Bria Gruen	
		Worship	10:15 AM			Lila Speicher	
					28 th	Kaylin Gruen	
APRIL				APRIL			
W	2 nd	Supper/Service	6:00 PM		2 nd	Vicky Pasch	
SU	6 th	Sunday School	9:00 AM		5 th	Pam Brandau	
		Worship	10:15 AM			Kimberly Buchholz	
W	9 th	Supper/Service	6:00 PM		9 th	Madalyn Dougherty	
SU	13 th	PALM SUNDAY			11 th	Rich & Kathy Cale	
		Sunday School	9:00 AM		12 th	Jack & Mary Ann Arndt	
		Worship	10:15 AM		16 th	Louise Buchholz	
TH	17 th	MAUNDY THURSDAY	7:00 PM		17 th	Julie Acker	
FR	18 th	GOOD FRIDAY	7:00 PM			Logan Buchholz	
		Prayer Vigil	8:00 PM		18 th	Rick Brueggen	
SA	19 th	Prayer Vigil	6:30 AM			Jared Gruen	
SU	20 th	EASTER				Ron Savall	
		Sunrise Service	6:00 AM			Jennifer & David Gruen	
		Breakfast	7:00 -8:45AM		21 st	April Kroeger	
		Sunday School	9:00 AM			Katie Gruen	
		Worship	10:15 AM		24 th	Eloise Evans	
SU	27 th	Sunday School	9:00 AM			Tanya & Scott Niedfeldt	
		Worship	10:15 AM		26 th	Riley Brueggen	
		Chicken Dinner	11:45 AM		28 th	Carol Brandau	
		Fundraiser				Matt Ornes	