

hearts to those in need and consider donating one or more of the following items:

Towels:	Size 20" x 40" to 27" x 52", light-weight, dark colors preferred
Soap:	Bath size bars
Combs:	Sturdy
Nail Clippers	Metal, with or without nail file
Tooth Brushes	Please leave in packaging.

Please place your donated items on the table located in the narthex.

### **THOSE SERVING IN MARCH**

**ALTAR:** Dixie & Leonard Arndt

**READERS:**

6<sup>th</sup> Ava Gruen  
13<sup>th</sup> Kirstin Arndt  
20<sup>th</sup> Barb Bever  
27<sup>th</sup> Ayawyn Conner

**COMMUNION SERVERS:** Thadyn & Ayawyn Conner

In case of emergency, you may contact:

Pastor Cathleen, via text, 608-865-1074, as well as Justin Arndt (608-435-6336, 414-587-6642 (cell), or Nalani at 608-387-2311. Justin and Nalani also receive text messages.

To activate the prayer chain, please contact Nalani (608-387-2311)

Office Hours: Wednesday, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Additional Contact Information:

Pastor Cathleen: [cathleenmorris@go.mccormick.edu](mailto:cathleenmorris@go.mccormick.edu)

Justin Arndt: [arndt.now@gmail.com](mailto:arndt.now@gmail.com)

Church: [wiltonchurch@gmail.com](mailto:wiltonchurch@gmail.com)

Nalani Bever: [nananib@gmail.com](mailto:nananib@gmail.com)

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

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

\*The Sunday Assembly, Lorraine S. Brugh, Gordon W. Lathrop, Augsburg Fortress, 2008

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St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Wilton, WI  
Third Sunday in Lent  
March 20, 2022  
**Inviting People to  
Journey with Christ's Family  
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

*The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!*

*\*(Indicates that the people should stand as they are able.)*

**Announcements**

### **Gathering**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.^*

*Prelude....A time for silent reflection*

### **\*Confession and Forgiveness**

In the name of God,  
who makes a way in the wilderness,  
walks with us,  
and guides us in our pilgrimage.

**Amen.**

Holy One,

**we confess that we have wandered far from you:  
we have not trusted your promises,  
we have ignored your prophets in our own day,  
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,  
we have failed to recognize you in our midst.**

**Have mercy on us!**

**Forgive us and turn us again to you.**

**Teach us to follow in your ways,  
assure us again of your love,  
and help us to love our neighbor.**

**Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,  
the Word draws near to you,  
and all who call out to God shall be saved.  
In Jesus, God comes to you again and again  
and gathers you under wings of love.  
In **✝** Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven.  
God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.  
**Amen.**

Gathering Hymn "Bless Now, O God, the Journey"

**ELW #326**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**\*KYRIE**

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above,  
and for our salvation,  
Let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world,  
for the well-being of the Church of God,  
and for the unity of all,  
Let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

## **CHURCH COUNCIL NEW MEMBER**

We are pleased to report Ayawyn Conner has accepted, and the council has approved, appointment to the church council. Ayawyn will serve one year under this appointment and will then be placed on the ballot at the 2022 annual meeting for the second year of the trustee term. Ayawyn will represent the council on the Worship Committee. Thank you, Ayawyn, for your willingness to serve!!

## **CHURCH STEPS PROJECT**

The council has entered into a contract with HSR Associates and Miron Construction in the amount of \$2,500.00 to secure the following:

1) **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Phase One will develop conceptual planning option(s) for the front entry steps. We will develop planning option(s) that solve current challenges of accessibility and maintenance while being sensitive to the historic facade.

2) **PHASE ONE: SCOPE OF WORK:** a) Design programming discussions to refine the requirements and project scope. b) Field verification and measurement as required for production of schematic design. c) Initial code review and handicap accessibility study. d) Presentation schematic design drawings. e) Project deliverables include concept site plan(s), concept floor plan(s), concept rendering(s), and associated budgets.

## **TRI-SYNOD YOUTH GATHERING**

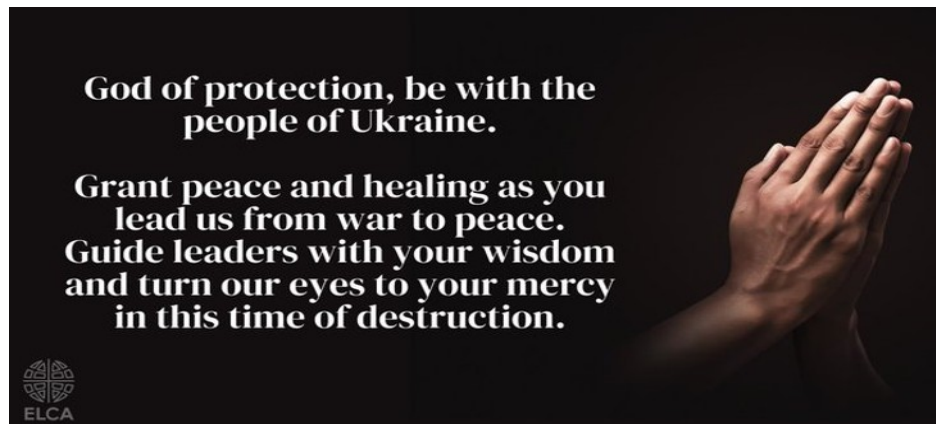
We are sending information to our youth who are in grades 9-12 about the opportunity to attend the Tri-Synod Youth Gathering July 25-27, 2022. The church council voted to pay the entire registration fee of \$275.00 to assist the students in attending. This is a combined effort of the La Crosse Area Synod, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, and the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

## **PERSONAL CARE KITS**

We are close to packing 200 care kits using grant money from Thrivent Financial. That is all well and good, but what does that say when we have not received donations from individual members? Open your

The church council voted to send \$3,000.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response, specifically earmarked for "Easter Europe Crisis Response". The ladies of the W-ELCA voted to donate \$500.00. **The gifts will be used in full (100%) for direct response to assist those affected.**

We have placed an insert in today's bulletin. Please consider making a personal gift to Lutheran Disaster Response. You may send your gift direct or, if you prefer, make your check payable to St. Paul's and we'll send a lump sum under St Paul's name. Your gift will also be entered in our records for tax purposes.



### **CHICKEN DINNER FUNDRAISER**

We will be sponsoring a drive-up chicken dinner on Sunday, April 24. Jamie Thomas will again prepare the barbeque chicken and we'll serve the usual potato salad, beans, cranberry sauce, and dinner roll. The cost will be \$10.00/plate. The church council approved the profit from the dinner to be designated to the cemetery maintenance account. We need your help in selling tickets, not just buying one for yourself and family members. Nalani will be handing out tickets TODAY!!

### **SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP**

We have placed information with regard to the summer programs available at Sugar Creek Bible Camp on the table in the narthex. The church contributes 50% of the camping fee.

P: For this holy house,  
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Canticle of Praise** "Glory to God in the Highest" ELW p. 148

**\*Prayer of the Day**

**Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

#### **Word**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.^*

### **First Reading**

*To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.*

#### **Isaiah 55:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.

<sup>5</sup>See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;

<sup>7</sup>Let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

<sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

#### **Psalm 63:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a  
dry and weary land where there is no water.

<sup>2</sup>**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,  
that I might behold your power and your glory.**

<sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is better than life itself;  
my lips shall give you praise.

<sup>4</sup>**So will I bless you as long as I live  
and lift up my hands in your name.**

### **CALENDAR**

Today	Manna & Mercy Bible Study	11:30 am
Wed., March 23	Lenten Service	7:00 pm
Sun., March 27	Sunday School	9:00 am
	Worship	10:15 am
	Church Council	11:15 am

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **PASTOR CATHLEEN LEAVING ST. PAUL'S**

Pastor Cathleen has accepted a call to serve Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Florence, and First Presbyterian Church, in Florence, WI. You should have received a letter from Pastor Morris. If not, we have placed additional copies on the table in the narthex. Pastor's last service at St. Paul's will be on April 3, 2022.

#### **EASTERN EUROPE CRISIS**

Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine on Feb. 24, the Ukrainian people have fled their country. Civilians fleeing the violence are heading toward Ukraine's western districts and such neighboring countries as Poland, Moldova, Slovakia, Romania and Hungary. Ukrainian men of military age (18-60) are required to stay in the country, so most of those fleeing the violence are women and children. According to one report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, more than 3 million people are seeking refuge in neighboring countries. There are major humanitarian concerns for both internally displaced people and refugees. Many of these Ukrainians fleeing their homes need shelter and such basic necessities as food, water and toiletries. Care for people also includes pastoral and psychological support to address the trauma they've endured.

Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying their companion churches in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as the Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits.

## \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Blessed Jesus,  
in this rich meal of grace,  
you have fed us with your body, the bread of life.  
Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope  
to a world in need.  
Amen.

### Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.^

\*Benediction

Sending Hymn "Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing" **ELW #545**

P: Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God's People, Pastor: Cathleen Morris; Organist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Barb Bever; Altar: Dixie & Leonard Arndt; Communion Servers: Thadyn Conner & Ayawyn Conner

## IN OUR PRAYERS

Katie Wallace, Steve Zirk, Gary Von Ruden, Sue Ann Degenhardt, Curt Brieske, Randy Steinbrink, Gloria Meltesen, LuAnn Bever-Denter, Florence Dougherty, Darlene Babbitt, Sacia Morris, John Acker, Lois Reineke, Rylan McCarthy, Pat Nelson, Judy Bever.

## IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Seth Tormoen, Danelle Dougherty, Robert Cale, Matthew Dutton.

<sup>5</sup>My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

<sup>6</sup>**when I remember you upon my bed,  
and meditate on you in the night watches.**

<sup>7</sup>For you have been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

<sup>8</sup>**My whole being clings to you;  
your right hand holds me fast.**

## Second Reading

*Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.*

### 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

<sup>1</sup>I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup>Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." <sup>8</sup>We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup>We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup>And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup>These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup>So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup>No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation** “Return to the Lord, your God” ELW p. 151

## GOSPEL READING

*Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.*

**Luke 13:1-9**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.<sup>2</sup>

[Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?”

<sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup>He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

**Hymn of the Day** “Restore in Us, O God” ELW #328

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** (Merciful God, receive our prayer.)

## OFFERING

*Offering plates are located in the Narthex as you enter and exit the church.*

## Offering Prayer

Extravagant God,  
you have blessed us with the fullness of creation.  
Now we gather at your feast  
where you offer us the food that satisfies.  
Take and use what we offer here, come among us,  
and feed us with the body and blood of Christ,  
in whose name we pray.  
Amen.

## Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ<sup>^</sup>

**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING** ELW p. 152

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** ELW p. 153

## \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Words of Institution

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.  
Amen.**

P: Here is food and drink for the journey.  
Take and be filled.

Distribution

*Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ's table.*

“Lamb of God” ELW p.154