

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH

February 2024 NEWSLETTER

100 N FREMONT ST | LEWISTON, MN 55952



Pastor Tami will be on vacation Wed Jan 31st—Wed Feb 7th. While away, Pastor Danielle Bartz from First Congregational UCC in Winona will cover any pastoral emergencies that arise. Her contact information is: Cell 507-269-5424.

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Office Hours:

T-Th
8:15 am-12:15 pm

Call if you have any
announcements or
prayer requests.

507-523-2643



Praise Worship

February 4, 9:00 am

Coffee and treats follow
in the Fellowship Hall.

**At St. Paul's
we believe in first love**

WE LOVE BECAUSE GOD FIRST LOVED US
--1 JOHN 4:19

There is a place for you here as we
worship and learn more about God
together!

**FEBRUARY 14TH
ASH WEDNESDAY**

6:30 PM

Greeting Cards!

Would you be willing to take a minute to write a card (or color a picture) and send it to one of our elders? The thing that I share when I get to visit our elders who can't always make it to worship is that, "Just because you can't come to church on Sunday, doesn't make you any less a part of the church. We get to come to you!" Would you join me in sending a written greeting as a church-together?

Ila Musser

232 S. Fremont Street
Lewiston, MN 55952

Renata Rislow

Bremmer Suites Good Shepherd
803 Home St.
Apt. # 108 or PO Box 747
Rushford, MN 55971

Dick Schultz

9 Williams Street
Lewiston, MN 55952

Anniversary: Charles & Lois Penheiter (2/26)

Birthdays: Jill Anderson (2/1); Cullin Neeck (2/2); Kristi Reps (2/7); Heather Reps (2/9); Elin Rislow (2/10); Jaydon Boynton & Melissa Nelson (2/13); Andrew Ronnenberg (2/22); Cora Danielson (2/23); Steve Boynton & Al Pecinovsky (2/25); Janelle Peter (2/28)



Prayers for those needing strength:

Renata Rislow: recovering from surgery

Robin Thelen (Tony Thelen's mom): accident recovery;

Family of Ann Mars who passed away. (mother of Judy Hovelson)

April Hovelson: dealing with MS (daughter-in-law of Judy & Dennis Hovelson)

Mark Smith: undergoing cancer surgery & chemotherapy

Family of Brian Vick: passed away (brother of Kristi Reps)

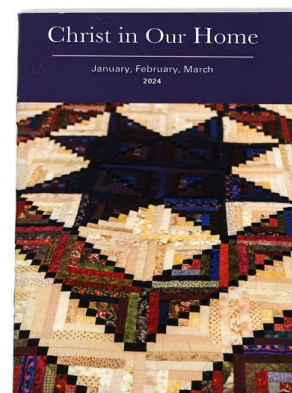


If you want to add to this Prayer List, please inform the church office at 523-2643 or email stpaullewis@stpaulewiston@gmail.com.

Is there a quilter among you at St. Paul's?

The first quarter of "Christ in our Home" devotionals are available in the narthex. This covers the months of January, February, and March. There are two sizes, (4x6 and 8x11) and these are great daily readings for anytime of the day or week.

Pick up a copy and see how richly God sews together your life for service to others and praise to Him who made all things and in his mercy, gives us the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. The mission work still goes on.



Pastor's Page

Always be full of joy in the Lord; I say it again, rejoice! –Philippians 4:4

Dear friends in Christ,

I have continued to focus on joy, and I pray you have been too.

Focusing and looking for joy is not an easy thing in January in Minnesota, and I do not want to make light of that. This is one of many reasons to remind ourselves daily that our joy is deeply connected to our faith. Philippians 4 is a beautiful chapter of scripture to remind us of this connection as the apostle Paul invites those he is writing to at the time to rejoice even as they pray for their needs. He then makes a direct connection between joy, our faith as reflected in our prayers, and experiencing God's peace that we admit we can never fully understand. This peace is a divine mystery and gift, and in my experience it is one of the great truths of faith.

I hope many of you realize by now that I am a fan of both truth telling and of not ignoring the everyday realities of life. For me one of those realities is that January is a hard month. Another reality is that when I seek joy, I experience more of it.

Here are some times and places I've found great joy while in the St. Paul's community recently: watching the many volunteers helping remove furniture and more from our sanctuary after our January 31st worship service, hearing the SPY kids make noise playing games upstairs as I met with the worship committee downstairs, preaching sitting among those attending worship in the fellowship hall as we met in that more intimate and casual space, watching kids explore the fellowship worship space including toddler Leanna crawling around, watching SPY bowl, witnessing the community quickly come together to support the Hovelson's, planning worship, and in the many personal conversations over coffee after worship (a highlight of my week!).

Here are some of the many places I've searched and grabbed at the joy in life elsewhere: coffee time with my daughter, reading with my cats snuggled in on my lap, enjoying the sunshine any moment it came out this month, planning my reunion vacation with the friends I'm meeting up with, meditating on God's love, fun texts to friends, and even smiling at strangers at stores. All of these are moments of connection with others and/or with creation. I have learned that seeking joy also means seeking those moments of connection that God gives us with every day. Sometimes I feel the joy of that connection even when very sad, and that is one of the miracles of joy – we don't need to be outwardly happy to experience this gift of inner peace and contentment as we rest in God's love and our love and connections to one another.

I'm looking forward to our first JOY Praise worship on Sunday February 11th, and the second Sunday of each month for at least several Sundays after that. We call it JOY worship for two reasons – one the obvious connection with seeking JOY and the other that we will structure the worship time around three parts of worship: Jesus, Others, Yourself! We will use Praise Worship music tracks for singing as well as using videos, skits, readers theater and storytelling, and also interactive times to connect to the gospel reading of the day. Even just thinking about this worship time is bringing me much joy, and I invite you to join us and share in that joy and we together share in God's love and proclaim the good news of Christ Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Tami Groth

text or call 507-722-0256 Email pastor.lewiston.mn@gmail.com

Church Council Meeting Minutes from January 16, 2024

Called to order by: John Botten

Those in attendance: Pastor Tami , Leann Jacobson, Jeff Nelson, Diane Rislow, John Botten and Sarah Sommer.

Opening Prayer by Pastor Tami.

Secretary report: motion made to except by Diane and seconded by Leann motion carried.

Treasure report: motion made to except by Leann and seconded by Diane motion carried.

Committee reports:

Mutual ministry: Will plan on doing employee assessment in February.

Worship committee: A new JOY (Jesus Others and Yourself) worship Sunday is planned.

Property management: Motion made by Sarah and seconded Diane With the pews out of the Church we are having the carpets cleaned , motion carried.

A motion was made by Sarah and seconded by Diane except the bid estimated of \$2025. for fixing the fronts handicap entrance repaired motion carried. A generous gift of \$500 to offset cost was made by unnamed benefactor. This will not only make it more access easier but will hopefully make the rain go away from the church instead of in the lower level the work will be done in March.

We will also need to repair the front of the church entrance due to cracked tile a bid will be done with the same business that did our back entrance.

The black top will be done in the spring. A big thank you to the organizers of our spaces downstairs.

Any other donations for the church repairs would greatly appreciated.

A huge thank you to Jon for taking care of the furnace and boiler problems that have occurred during our cold weather. It does not go unnoticed.

Stewardship committee: no report.

Spy report: Tubing at Ironwoods Spring Christian Ranch was cancelled because of weather.

Parish education: No report.

Outreach and Evangelism: Members have been volunteering with Ruby's pantry. Contact church office for more details of volunteering or using Ruby's pantry to reduce food waste/stretch your food dollar.

Pastor report was given.

Congregational life: We will be having Palm Sunday sundaes ! Hosted by SPY. With a Maundy Thursday church having a special gathering. Keep an eye out for the upcoming Lenten services.

Old business: New Church council members.

New business: Annual meeting will be held January 21st, 2024. A motion was made by Sarah seconded by Leann for the proposed 2024 budget to be submitted for Annual meeting. Motion carried.

Closing prayer was given by Pastor Tami.

New church council will set next council meeting.

Meeting adjourned by : Jeff and seconded by Diane motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Sommer, secretary.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The synod requires St. Paul's to form a call committee before we offer a contract to a new pastor to replace Pastor David. Right now Pastor Tami is our "Bridge to Serve" Pastor and will stay with us for one year. If, after that period of time, we are a good fit for each other, Pastor Tami will be our new pastor. If things don't work out for some reason, our paperwork would be ready to go to search for a pastor. Please pray that the spirit moves us in the right direction for what is best for both Pastor Tami and St. Paul's.

The Pastor/Asst. to the Bishop of the SE MN Synod, Rev. Barb Streed, met with the committee and gave us information on what we will need to accomplish as far as a call committee. The most important step is to involve the council and congregation every step of the way. We want to be transparent.

For the last three weeks the call committee has asked our congregation to share what their hopes and dreams are for St. Paul's, as well as what they think our strengths and challenges are. The questionnaires are passed out to everyone the last 15 minutes of church and take only a couple of minutes to answer. We will have two – three more weeks of asking for your input through questionnaires. Your input will determine what is important to us and which direction we should go as far as the future of St. Paul's.

If you have missed any of the questionnaires, we have extra forms in the narthex at church. We also are planning to reach out to all members through email so that everyone can have a voice in the future of St. Paul's. If you need the questionnaires mailed to you, just let us know. Please feel free to contact the call committee if you have questions or concerns. Thank you!

Members are: Corinne Du Preez, Cole Kreidermacher, Beth Olson, Melissa Nelson, Ann Riebel, and Diane Rislou.



A big **THANK YOU** to the outgoing council members. You have faithfully been part of the ongoing business of the church. Your advice and hard work were greatly appreciated. Now, we welcome the new incoming members to the Council: Crystal Corey, Ann Lubinski, and Richard Tucker. God's blessings of wisdom and grace to you as you serve St. Paul's church.

We need your help to help one of ours!



Dennis and Judy Hovelson's daughter-in-law, April, needs our help. Both April and her husband, Andrew, are in a major battle against Multiple Sclerosis. April was diagnosed with MS 21 years ago, it is now ravaging her body at a rapid rate. Her only option is to have a stem cell transplant. This entails them being away from their 3 sons for an extended amount of time while she undergoes extensive chemotherapy before the transplant. Her immune system will be in a very weakened state. Ideally, they hope this transplant will rid her body of MS or at least stop her symptoms from getting worse. It could also just slow her symptoms.

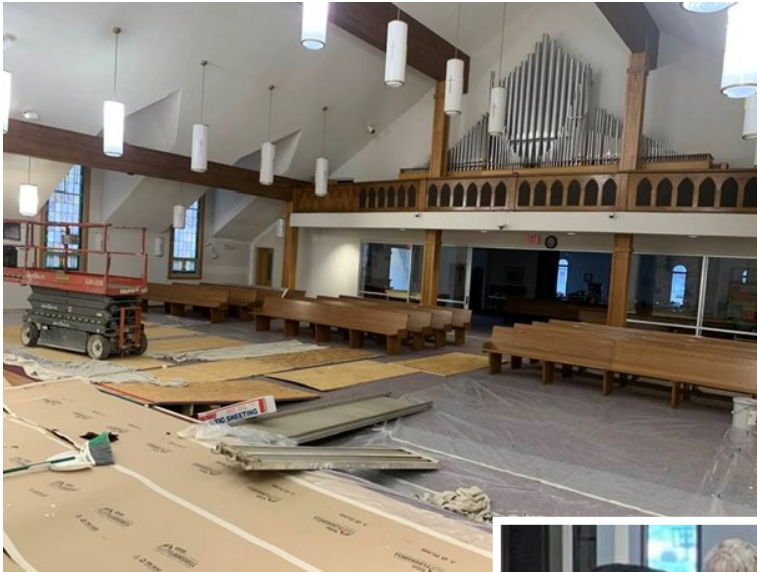
Unfortunately, this treatment is only done as a trial in the United States and because of her progression; she has been turned down by many medical centers so her options are limited. She has secured an appointment to have this transplant in Pueblo, Mexico in February. It is uncertain if any part of this will be covered by insurance. We know there will be many other expenses they will be responsible to cover on their own. St. Paul's will be hosting a free-will offering a "Souper Bowl" fundraiser for the community on February 11, which is Super Bowl Sunday. Many friends and neighbors of Dennis and Judy have offered to help. We will be serving soups, breads, and bars from 11 am-1 pm. Take-outs will be available.

There will also be a silent auction to help raise even more funds. Consider donating a basket. One of the items already donated is dessert on Jon Nienow's rail car! This experience is always very popular.

Questions or to sign up to help: Please contact Beth Olson (507-251-8857); Tara Kreidermacher (507-429-5567) Diane Rislow (507-459-7263), Ann Lubinski (507-450-3157) or Dianne Rislow (507-.696-4520).

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Building Project Update: All the inside repairs & painting are finished!



Thanks to all those who helped in any way to get this project completed. A special thanks to Ryan Kronebusch, Chris Heim, and their crew for a job well done. This project was made possible from the grant that we received from the Fischer Foundation, and for God's help in helping us find the financial support we needed. Can I get an Amen?!



HERE ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AT ST. PAUL'S AND THERE ARE SIGN-UP SHEETS ON THE NARTHEX TABLE FOR THE FOLLOWING:



OFFERING
COUNTERS



February 2024

God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (*diakonia*). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

Counters		Ushers / Communion Assist	Acolyte
4	Mary Botten	Ann Lubinski / Dianne Rislow	TBD
11	Beth Olson	Jim & Beth Olson	TBD
18	Leann Jacobson	Ann Lubinski / Dianne Rislow	TBD
25	Mary Botten	Ann Riebel	TBD

AV: Jeff & Dexter Nelson **Altar Guild:** Dianne Rislow

Dates for your calendar

Feb. 4: 9:00 am Praise Worship w/communion

Feb. 7: 6:00 pm SPY Meeting

Feb. 11: 9:00 am JOY Praise Worship 11am-1pm Hovelson Fundraiser Soup & Silent Auction

Feb. 14: 6:30 pm ASH WEDNESDAY and Imposition of Ashes

Feb. 15: 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting

Feb. 18: 9:00 am Regular Worship w/communion. Call Committee Meeting

Feb. 21: 6:30 pm Confirmation Class

Feb. 25: 9:00 am Regular Worship

Feb. 28: 6:30 pm Confirmation Class

February meeting to be determined. Watch for date and time in the bulletin announcements. The colors are green and purple.



If you like to place flowers on the altar for church service, please contact the Altar Guild (Dianne Rislow) to let her know. Or contact the church office Tues-Thurs 12-4 pm. As always, it is greatly appreciated!

S.P.Y. NEWS

IF S.P.Y. SNOW TUBING GETS CANCELLED TWICE, WE GO OUT FOR PIZZA AND BOWLING!



We had so much fun having pizza at the Creamery and bowling at Nordic Lanes in Rushford. We had a private room for our group of 20 to enjoy lunch together. When it was time to bowl, Jim Mueller had dusted off the cobwebs from his bowling ball and took on 15 teenagers!!! Thanks to all our adult leaders for helping transport the group and for cheering for the crew!



MORE S.P.Y. NEWS

The next S.P.Y. Supper Meeting will be Wednesday, February 7th from 6-8 pm. *Note that we are meeting a week earlier than usual.

**Update on the S.P.Y. St. Louis Mission Trip July 13 – July 19th
As of Feb. 1st it will only be 162 days until we leave for Missouri!**



* We have reserved spots for 10 youth and 2 adult leaders through YouthWorks (YW), who is organizing our trip. There are only 9 spots left in St. Louis, so if you still want to go, we need to let YW know as soon as we can.

*We have recently booked a 15 passenger van and also a minivan for the trip. Hurray!

* YW has a number of organizations they help with including those experiencing homelessness, local children, and the elderly. We might be preparing meals, beautifying houses, shooting hoops, sorting clothes or spending time with community residents.

* Also, on the Sunday before we check in with YW, we are planning a day of fun to explore St. Louis!

A quote from YouthWorks (YW), “We’ve never thought of mission trips as a youth group’s “big event” where students finally get to live out their faith. The “big event” of students’ faith happens every day as teenagers find the opportunity to love and serve the people God puts in their path. Instead, mission trips are a launch pad... a drawing back of the bow... a wind-up for the pitch. Mission trips equip and encourage students to go home and love the communities they travel into every day when they roll out of bed.”

We love how St. Paul’s supports our youth so they can have this opportunity to put their faith in action each and every day. Thank you so much!

Valentine's Day Word Search



Circle each word in the Valentine's Day word search puzzle below.

X P I N K N H S N U O T G N L T
 E O I G Y T E E Y V N C C U I C
 G E N I T N E L A V U E O E H G
 N M F F O N B T O R D R R O F K
 E Y N T P M S E C K T X C R N S
 V E N S P N M U O E M O E S M R
 O O X K S N P W C O L I R O S E
 L A E A B I D N U A D C S N E W
 I C A R D T K U T K N Y T E F O
 E N E U Z A I E H U N D Z H U L
 M V B L E M N O L G M V Y O N F
 K S W E E T H E A R T A F S I R

1: HEART

2. CUPID

3. CARD

4. VALENTINE

5. LOVE

6: POEM

7. CHOCOLATE

8. CANDY

9. KISS

10. ROSE

11: FLOWERS

12. PINK

13. SWEETHEART

14. GIFT

15. HUG