

# St. Paul Lutheran Church & Preschool Newsletter

**March 2020**

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## Transformation

If you have spent even a few moments with me or connected with me on social media, you will have discovered my love for my dogs. We have three now, Gracie, our short-hair Border Collie and our two Golden Retrievers, Bailey and Mason. I'd like to share Mason's story.

About a year ago, I convinced Dave to let us foster with an organization that rescues Golden Retrievers/Golden mixes. We had our first foster, a puppy. Rachel and I fell in love and wanted to keep him. (Dave had to know this was coming.) He said no and the pup was placed in a wonderful home! In early May of 2019, I received a phone call that they were desperate for foster families for puppy mill rescue dogs. They would not typically place a puppy mill dog with us because of Lauren's disability but they were desperate. Dave and the kids had gone to Wisconsin, so I was home by myself, but Dave agreed that we could foster the mill dog.

When I picked the dog up and couldn't get him through the door to get him to my car. He was terrified. He was about 3 ½ years old, they guessed, a puppy mill stud and had been tied up in a goat stall for his entire life. He was freaked out about walking on a leash, being touched, going in a crate for the ride home, not to mention the 30-minute ride home! Once at home, he met the other dogs in the backyard, but I couldn't get him in the house. I couldn't pull him in with the leash and I tried enticing him with a treat, but he had no idea what a treat was. I tried peanut butter, grilled chicken and whatever else I could find but to no avail. I couldn't get him in by myself. I called Judy and she came over. It took both of us – one gently pulling on the leash and the other "herding" him from the back to get him in the house. In the house, he laid as far away as he could from me and stayed there. He had no idea what to do with food in a bowl and wouldn't eat. He wouldn't let me near him to pet him and I had to corner him around the dining room table to get him on a leash to go to the bathroom. He couldn't understand that what I was offering him were good things, that he was safe and that he could trust me.

On Sunday, the family came home. I warned them that the mill dog was not at all like our other dogs and they should just come in, leave him alone and it would take time for him to trust us. Rachel walked in, sat on the floor a respectable distance away and softly talked to him. As she did, she inched closer. It was in those moments that Rachel fell in love with Mason and him with her.

Rachel spent her times at home on the dining room floor with Mason. Petting him, encouraging him, showing him love. It took time and a lot of effort, but eventually, Rachel was able to get Mason to join her as she sat on the living room floor. Sometimes he would only stay a few

minutes before quickly returning to his place in the dining room, but Rachel was not discouraged. She kept at it, sitting on the floor, until Mason was comfortable coming in and laying in there – with or without her.

If you have had the pleasure of meeting Mason in person, you will find that he is making up for lost time. His joy of discovering love is displayed in his every action. It is like he can't help himself. Now that he knows love, he wants to give love. It really has been an amazing transformation.

This is just what Jesus did. "So, the Word (Jesus) became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son." (John 1:14) God sent Jesus to become one of us. Jesus was out showing God's love to people wherever He was at in ways that people would receive it. And that transformed our lives for all eternity.

This amazing transformation is like what we are doing with our new vision within our community. Like my attempts to show Mason love were things that I just expected him to innately know, perhaps we expect that we will reach others the way we are used to doing it. After all, aren't we here and available to the community on Sunday mornings? But like Mason's transformation took time and effort and a different approach, so will the transformation of the community around us. It probably won't look like the way it's been done – we have seen that already with the 10 am service with Kids Church and there is more to do.

Will it take time? Yes. Increased effort? Yes. Will it be worth it? Absolutely. For once somebody is transformed through the everlasting, unconditional love of God through Jesus, they will want to share it. They won't be able to help themselves!

Blessings,

DCE Kendis Bender



### **It's time for a TIME CHANGE**

Set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, so that you will be on time for worship services Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>



## WEDNESDAY NIGHT LENT SERVICES

Wednesday March 4<sup>th</sup> @ 7 PM

Wednesday March 11<sup>th</sup> @ 7 PM

Wednesday March 18<sup>TH</sup> @ 7 PM

Wednesday March 28<sup>TH</sup> @ 7 PM

Wednesday April 1<sup>st</sup> @ 7 PM

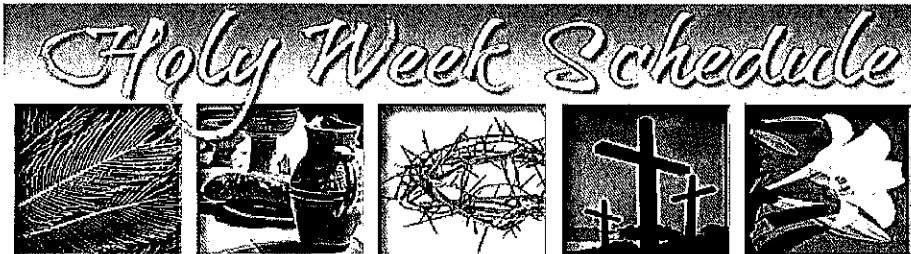
**Lent Fellowship Suppers – before Wednesday worship @ 6:00 PM**

### WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN MARCH



### *The Lord's Prayer and His Passion*

This Lent our special Wednesday night services focus on the words of the Lord's Prayer and connections with the events of Jesus going to the cross that bring light to the words of the prayer. Since Lent is a time of learning, a teaching parable in drama form is included each Wednesday night service.



### **PALM SUNDAY**

SUNDAY APRIL 5, 2020, 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP**

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2020, 7:00 PM

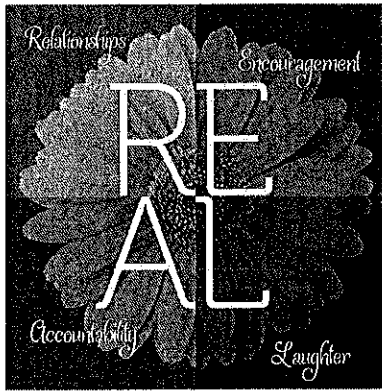
### **GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP**

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2020, 7:00 PM

### **EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION**

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2020

CELEBRATION SERVICES, 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM



## St. Paul Women's Ministry

Women's Small Group meets on Tuesday evenings from 7-8:30 PM. Any questions, please contact Kendis at [dce@stpaulamherst.com](mailto:dce@stpaulamherst.com).



The high school group at St. Paul is called The Next Step, because it's the "next step" after confirmation! **Interested in getting more information – text Kendis Bender at 967-1792!**

The Next Step meets on Sunday afternoons – 11:15 (or whenever late service ends) until 2:00. Lunch will be provided! Parents are asked to help coordinate meals!

**Upcoming Dates: March 1, 8, 16, 23, 30 (Last two Sunday dependent on Amherst Spring Break!)**



## H3

3/1 Sermon Summary Due

3/4 Prepping/Serving Pre-service Meal  
Lent Midweek Worship 7 PM

3/11 Lent Midweek Worship 7 PM

3/18 Lent Midweek Worship 7 PM

3/23-27 Amherst Spring Break

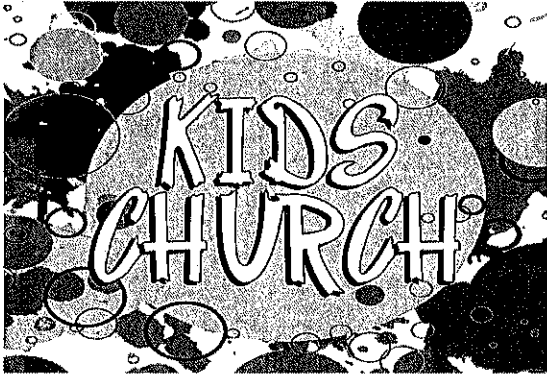
3/25 Lent Midweek Service 7 PM

3/28-29 Tool Time Jr High Retreat (Ann Arbor)

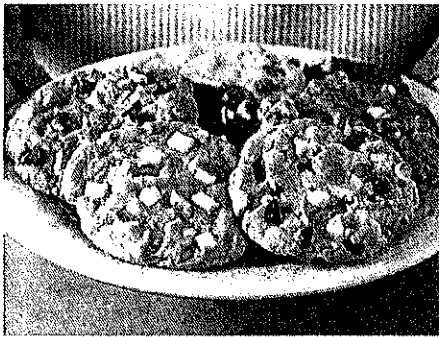
3/30-4/3 Lorain Spring Break

## Youth Summer Mission Trip

Due to damage to the housing facility in Ponce, Puerto Rico from the last earthquake, the youth summer mission trip has been rescheduled to disaster relief in Lumberton, NC. We are continuing to raise funds. Please keep this group in your prayers!



We are looking for donations for Kids Church! We are looking for bean bag chairs, large throw pillows and a tablet or iPad to use for sign-in. Please contact Kendis if you have any of these available!



### **St. Paul Lutheran Preschool**

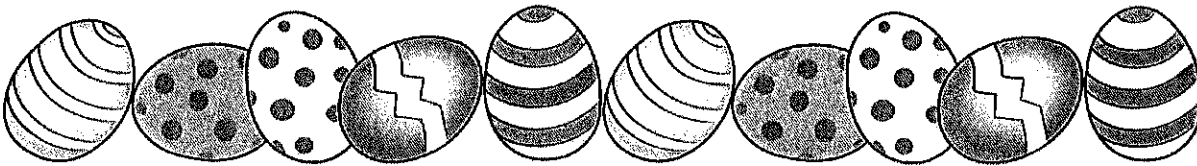
Mrs. Fields Pre-Portioned Cookie Dough Fundraiser

The preschool classes will be selling Cookie Dough as a fundraiser for the purchase of bibles, special parties, and a future playground.

You can place your order anytime from Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> – Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. All orders are due no later than Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>.  
*Money is due when you place your order.*

**Please make checks payable: St. Paul Lutheran Preschool**

***Pick up will be Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.*** Please see order form in this newsletter.



## **Easter Party & Egg Hunt!**

**Saturday, April 4, 2020**

**10:00 AM – 12:00 NOON**

Hey Kids! Bring your whole family to the biggest, most fun Easter Egg Hunt in town. It's egg-citing! It's egg-stra special! Best of all, it's got egg-cellent activities! You'll enjoy balloons, Egg Hunts, food, fun games & great crafts, awesome prizes, and meet the Easter bunny. It's **indoors**. Egg hunts happen every 20 minutes for all ages. There's an egg hunt @ 11AM just for special needs kids & adults.

***Grab all your friends and come have a basketful of fun!***



## Preschool Update

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our food drive for National Lutheran Schools Week!! We collected 281 pounds of food for Harvest For Hunger! This will provide over 234 family meals!

In February, we celebrated Valentine's Day with our classes. We celebrated love month with several crafts and activities. Parents came in to help us celebrate the holiday with our students.

We also had a visit from Dr. Scott Iliff, DDS. All three classes learned about keeping their teeth safe from cavities and sweets. Dr. Iliff sent each student home with a goodie bag as well. It just so happened that Dr. Iliff was able to visit our classes on the same day as our Valentine's parties, so we sent the students home with a bag of candy and a toothbrush!

The teachers conducted conferences with the parents from our Monday-Wednesday-Friday classes in February.

The Preschool Staff and Board will be sponsoring the Lenten dinners this year. We will be using this as a fundraiser towards a playground that we are hoping to install behind the parsonage!!! Thank you to the other boards and committees that have volunteered to provide a meal during this time for us!

On March 7th, we will be hosting our Dads and Donuts events at 9am and 10:30am.

On March 13, St. Paul's will be hosting the LCMS Spring Workshop. Currently, 91 educators are registered to attend. Christian singer Jennie Williamson will be presenting.

Thank you for your continued support of our program!!

Sincerely,  
Beth Naro  
Preschool Director

## “PRAYER: THE FIRST STEP IN REACHING OUR COMMUNITY”



6-week Small Group Bible Study for Everyone  
thru the season of Lent

We are very excited about starting a new six-week Bible study called *Prayer: The First Step In Reaching Our Community*. As Christians we want to have an impact on the people in our community. We desire to reach people with God's love. And we know that prayer is a great way to get started! These interactive studies use the Lord's Prayer as a guide to equip us to deepen our prayer life and to develop new ways to pray for our community.

### Attend a Group this week.

**Sundays @ 10:00 AM** Group meets in the Conference Room, upstairs. Led by Ann Darren Conley.

**Mondays @ 7:00 PM** Tina & Ron Muska lead the group in the parsonage next door.

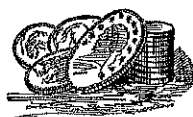
**Tuesdays @ 10:00 AM** Join Pastor Paul in the upper level at church for coffee and Bible study.

**Tuesdays @ 7:00 PM** This group is for women and meets in the church parsonage. Kendis Bender leads.

**Wednesdays @ 4:30 PM** This group is ideal for people who will stay for the Lent Supper (6 PM) and Lent Worship service (7 PM). Pastor Paul leads in the parsonage, next door.

### A Way Retirees May Give to God

If you are 70 ½ or older, you can make charitable contributions to your favorite ministry right from your 401(k), 403(b) or IRA. This is called “QCD” (Qualified Charitable Distribution). If you are required to take Required Minimum Distributions (RMD's) from your account, these QCD's can offset it, saving you tax dollars. If you would like to discuss this possibility, your LCMS Gift Planning Counselor can help. For more information contact Eileen Fitzenreiter at [Eileen.Fitzenreiter@lfn.org](mailto:Eileen.Fitzenreiter@lfn.org) or 419-822-6461.



### **Too Much? Too Little?**

Everybody would like to strike it rich. From the gold fevers of the mid-1800s to today's sophisticated investors like arbitrageurs of Wall Street, from the tulip investors in Holland in 1637 to Carlo Ponzi in the 1920s to real estate speculators in 2006, people have dreamt and grasped and cheated and prayed for wealth.

Not Agur, son of Jakeh, author of the marvelous 30th chapter of Proverbs. In fact, he prayed to God to keep him not only from poverty (understandable) *but also from becoming wealthy*. Seriously! “**I ask of you, Lord . . . give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, ‘Who is the LORD?’ Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God**” (Proverbs 30:7-9).

Wise words. Agur realized that desperate people sometimes throw away their morals to survive. He feared that kind of desperation. But he was also insightful enough to know that money has a terribly

corrupting power that is potentially just as destructive of your morals. In practical terms, he was inviting God to send some investment and business setbacks periodically so that he would not accumulate so much money that it would go to his head. He wanted both to love God and need God.

What is your personal financial level right now? Are you struggling and broke? risking idolatry with significant financial resources? Or like a spiritual Goldilocks, right in the Agur sweet spot?

## **St. Paul Lutheran Church where living Grace[d] & Families Cross**

That catchphrase sums up the emphasis of this congregation. What does it mean?

- We will live God's grace in our words and actions.
- We can't give out what we don't have in us. We commit to living "graced" – that is, we will be receivers of God's love to us in Jesus in worship, Bible studies, Holy Communion, and Baptism.
- We will share God's loving grace with all people, especially focusing on the needs of family life.

### **SMALL GIFTS that are a BIG HELP!**

Here are some items you can donate that are a BIG help to the ministry of St. Paul:

1. Maxwell House regular and decaf coffee
2. Boxed cereal bars – all varieties
3. Packages of cookies
4. Air freshener
5. Gift cards for fast food restaurants (\$5.00) – for people who stop in the church office in need of a meal
6. Gift cards for gasoline (\$20) – for people in need of gas to get to work

Donations of food and tableware by be put in kitchen. Gift cards may be brought to church office or placed in offering plate.

### **FORGETTABLE FACT**

A snail can sleep for three years.

### **POTENT QUOTABLES**

"There is within every soul a thirst for happiness and meaning."  
- Thomas Aquinas

### **PARTING SHOT**

Spring Break? Why would anyone want to take a break from Spring?



## SERVANTS DURING THE WORSHIP OF GOD'S FAMILY FOR MARCH:

Service	Elders	Readers	Acolytes	Greeters	Altar Guild	Ushers	Sound Room
3/1 8:30 AM	Harold Gibson Jeff Krupp	Molly McGlothlin	Gwen Krupp	Tony & Lynn Jiovanazzo	Karie Coffman	Harold Gibson Jeff Krupp Jeff Phan Steve Warnock	Bruce McGlothlin
10:00 AM		James Steindl	Makaya Thomas	Karen Anderson		Dean Koch Dave Timbs	Cheryl Street
3/4 7:00 PM		Cheryl Street	Nathan Draga	Diane Coffman	Karie Coffman	Dan Streza Chuck Draga Danny Kemery Bob Kemmerle	
3/8 8:30 AM		Marty Offineer	Shane Hargreaves	Judy Starbuck	Lynn Jiovanazzo Judy Starbuck	John Kirschner John Cartmell Ron Klein	Priscilla Harden
10:00 AM	Darren Conley David Bender Bob Steindl	Laurie Beran	Ashton Draga	Ted & Sally Krause		Laurie Beran Deby Lasko	Darren Conley
3/11 7:00 PM		Jeff Phan	Gwen Krupp	John & Brenda Cartmell	Lynn Jiovanazzo Judy Starbuck	Josh Gallo Billy Swanzer	
3/15 8:30 AM	Harold Gibson David Bender	Jack Green	Jacob Schneider	Nancy Beran Ruth Williams	Fran Draga Debbie Smith	Harold Gibson Jeff Krupp Jeff Phan Steve Warnock	Laura Kreger
10:00 AM		Josh Gallo	Ruari Dever	Emma Sekerak		Dean Koch Dave Timbs	Bruce McGlothlin
3/18 7:00 PM		James Steindl	Katie Steindl	Karen Anderson	Fran Draga Debbie Smith	John Kirschner John Cartmell Ron Klein	
3/22 8:30 AM		Christine Krupp	Jacob Schneider	Chuck & Fran Draga	Edna Klenz Wanda Aschenbach	Dan Streza Chuck Draga Danny Kemery Bob Kemmerle	Bruce McGlothlin
10:00 AM	Darren Conley David Bender Bob Steindl	Beth Albrecht	Makaya Thomas	Diane Coffman		Josh Gallo Billy Swanzer	Bruce McGlothlin
3/25 7:00 PM		Molly McGlothlin	Shane Hargreaves	Harold & Debbie Gibson	Edna Klenz Wanda Aschenbach	Dean Koch Dave Timbs	

3/29 8:30 AM	Marty Offineer	Gwen Krupp	Ron & Cindy Klein	Donna Kemmerle Diane Coffman	Harold Gibson Jeff Krupp Jeff Phan Steve Warnock	Bruce McGlothlin
10:00 AM	Cheryl Street	Nathan Draga	Ted & Sally Krause		Laurie Beran Deby Lasko	Bruce McGlothlin

**March Birthdays**

3/1	Sarah Keller, Scott Lasko, Amy Kuzman	3/10	Anita Labella, Jenna Tatum	3/22	Lauren Hignett, Anna Offineer
3/2	Ashton Draga, Dakota Koch, Andrew Schneider	3/11	Lynn Czajkowski	3/23	Robert Becker Jr., Al Gallo
3/3	Sarah Swanzer	3/12	Brad Conley	3/24	Candy Fike
3/4	Kylie Deamon, James Walts	3/13	Rick Lence, Jennifer Stiwald	3/25	Jackson Harmon
3/5	Sandra Binggeli, Tabitha Krupp	3/14	Elizabeth Harmon, John D Kirschner	3/26	James Steindl
3/6	Sharon Bennington, Karen Lence, Jackson Strohsack	3/15	Ava Aschemeier, Tim Temple	3/27	Joshua Farmer
3/7	Carol Krieg, Emily Kyser	3/16	Nancy Beran	3/29	Cheryl Kirschner
3/9	Lauren Bender, Paul Grakauskas, Tyler Hopkins, Tyler Ody	3/17	Jacob Conley, Pat Rein, Alan Trottier	3/31	Josh Gallo
		3/18	Rauri Dever		
		3/19	Kelsey Watson, Bruce McGlothlin		
		3/21	Richard Pippert, Kayla Sekerak, Michael Sekerak		

**St. Paul Events & Bible Reading Calendar March 2020**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 Food Collection</b> 8:30 Holy Communion 10 Bible Study 10 Worship/Kids Church 11:15 Next Step	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10 Seasoned Saints 7 Elders 7 Women's Ministry 7 NA	<b>4</b> 6 Lenten Supper 7 Lenten Midweek	<b>5</b> 6:15 Hand Bells 7:30 Choir	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9 Preschool Dad's & Donuts
<b>8</b> 8:30 Worship 10 Bible Study 10 Holy Communion/ KIDS Church 11:15 Next Step	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10 Seasoned Saints 7 Women's Ministry 7 NA	<b>11</b> 6 Lenten Supper 7 Lenten Midweek	<b>12</b> 6:15 Hand Bells 7:30 Choir	<b>13</b> 8:45 Ohio District Childhood Workshop @St. Paul	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8:30 Holy Communion 10 Bible Study 10 Worship/Kids Church 11:15 Next Step	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10 Seasoned Saints 7 Women's Ministry 7 NA	<b>18</b> 6 Lenten Supper 7 Lenten Midweek	<b>19</b> 6:15 Hand Bells 7 Autism Group 7:30 Choir	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8:30 Worship 10 Bible Study 10 Holy Communion/ KIDS Church 11:15 Next Step	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10 Seasoned Saints 6:30 BOD Meeting 7 Women's Ministry 7 NA	<b>25</b> 6 Lenten Supper 7 Lenten Midweek	<b>26</b> 6:15 Hand Bells 7:30 Choir	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Youth Tool Time Retreat
<b>29</b> 8:30 & 10 Worship 10 Bible Study 10 KIDS Church 11:15 Next Step	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 10 Seasoned Saints 7 Women's Ministry 7 NA				





## St. Paul Lutheran Preschool

### Mrs. Fields Pre-Portioned Cookie Dough Fundraiser

You can place your order anytime from Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> –  
 Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. All orders are due no later than Wednesday,  
 March 11<sup>th</sup>.

Money is due when you place your order.

**Please make checks payable: St. Paul Lutheran Preschool**

***Pick up will be Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.***

Your purchase will help raise money for bibles, special parties with parents, and a future playground. Thanks for supporting your St. Paul Lutheran Preschool! **Order forms may be turned in to DCE Kendis Bender's mailbox in the narthex.**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Milk Chocolate Chip	_____ x \$18 =	\$ _____
Rainbow	_____ x \$18 =	\$ _____
Oatmeal Raisin	_____ x \$18 =	\$ _____
White Choc. Macadamia Nut	_____ x \$18 =	\$ _____
Snickerdoodle	_____ x \$18 =	\$ _____
Carmel Apple Crunch	_____ x \$18 =	\$ _____
Chocolate Chip Peanut Butter Cup	_____ x \$18 =	\$ _____
So Berry Extraordinary	_____ x \$18 =	\$ _____
Gluten Free Chocolate Chip	_____ x \$18 =	\$ _____

Each pre-portioned cookie dough contains 32 cookies! Product arrives frozen and can be stored in freezer for 1 year or refrigerate for up to 2 weeks. Can be re-frozen as well. Pre-portioned cookie dough is great to have on hand for a last-minute take-along treat, so order plenty!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Checks can be made payable to St. Paul Lutheran Preschool*

Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

