



Fellow Ministers in Christ,

Well, we received some good news and bad news. First, the bad news. Kassy will be leaving as Office Manager as of February 1st of this year. The good news is she will be able to financially support her family at this time. Kassy expressed that she loved her position (and we loved her, her temperament, abilities, energy and skills) but financially it was not sustainable. We wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors with a hearty thank you for a job well done!

Some more good news. I am retiring from my position at the Michigan Court of Appeals February 1st. Mary and I will be leaving for Alabama the next day to visit our exchange student Dr. Nayef Nimri and family in Evansville, Indiana as they are expecting their second child the middle of the month and unto our Sister in

Law in Foley Alabama. We will be back in time for our Lenten Journey which begins on February 14th with Ash Wednesday as we begin our journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. Our baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

Ash Wednesday service will be on February 14 at 6PM as we begin our Lenten journey that we are from dust and to dust we shall return. The following Wednesdays until Holy Week we will have mid-week gathering at 6:00PM with soup and bread (there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the entry way) to discuss each of the five covenants we will encounter each Sunday. The first is the rainbow as a sign of God's covenant. Devotion booklets are available on the table to assist you in your journey. You can write your name after the devotion booklet you take.

The first Sunday's gospel in Lent is from Mark 1:9-15 (NRSV):

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the

Guiding Principles

We are a people who:

- ☼ Listen for God's Call
- ☼ Believe and Trust in God's Call
- ☼ Answer God's Call
- ☼ Support each other in times of joy and sorrow
- ☼ Live out our faith in prayer and service
- ☼ Share food with the hungry
- ☼ Believe the gospel is for all, not just Christians.

wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

Since the weekly gospels are from the book of Mark, we have recently studied this where we start with the baptism of Christ where God's Spirit descends on Christ and God speaks great affirming words from the Father. Immediately Jesus is driven into the desert and was tended to by the Spirit and then proclaimed we should repent and believe in the good news. Lent is a time to repent as we remember the good news and what God has done for us through Christ. On our sign out front we have "Come and See." This is how we invite others to join us.

Jon K is doing Bible Study on Sundays at 9AM. This is proving quite thought provoking for many. Please feel free to join in at any time. Mary continues with the Gather Bible Study now on the 3rd Sunday of the Month and has generated many thoughtful reflections. Again, feel free to join at any time. We also serve as a voting precinct for the city of E. Lansing.

The quilters have given a quilt to a member who is going through chemo. Thank you for your special thought and true act of love. May the quilt surround them with the love of Christ and the St. Paul family.

Thank you to all the staff and volunteers that allow the St. Paul family to worship, have bible study and carry out its mission in the community through the food pantry. God Bless you All!

Pr. Carl

Social Outreach & Ministry



St. Paul Pantry

Food Pantry Report for February 2024 Newsletter

A total of 164 clients were served in December, 2023, which meant 50 families were helped. So far since January 1, 2023, we have served 1770 clients which means 544 families have been helped. We could not have accomplished this without the support of our congregation and the dedicated volunteers who work at the Food Pantry.

Between January 26, 2023, and December 25, 2023, 7252.2 pounds of food was donated for the Food Pantry from members of the congregation, as well as outside donors from the community. During the month of December, we received 364.12 pounds of food. We are very grateful for these donations.

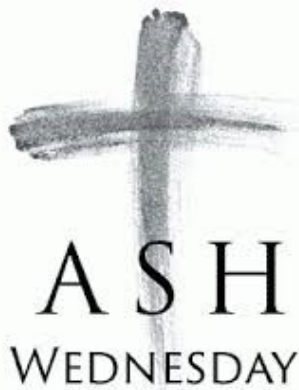
The Food Pantry is currently seeking volunteers who could work at pantry distribution on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday evenings of the month or the 2nd and 4th Thursday afternoons. We are also looking for volunteers who might be able to assist on the 3rd Monday morning of each month to unload the Food Bank Delivery. We generally meet around 8:30-8:45a.m. and are finished by 10:00 a.m., depending on the number of volunteers that we have. Anyone who is interested in helping can contact Bev Johnson or Tracy Collins.



During February, the Food Pantry is continuing to request donations of the following items, which are currently in short supply or unavailable from the Greater Lansing Food Bank:

TOMATO PASTE TOMATO SAUCE SOUPS SALT MANDARIN ORANGES
CAKE AND BROWNIE MIXES JELLY CRACKERS CATSUP MUSTARD
LAUNDRY DETERGENT HAND SOAP DISH SOAP BODY LOTION

Upcoming Events



Ash Wednesday service is on
Wednesday, February 14th at 6pm.

Soup Supper



Sign up on the soup/bread volunteer sheet on the table in the narthex.

- Wednesday, February 21 @ 6pm – Lenten Soup Supper
- Wednesday, February 28 @ 6pm – Lenten Soup Supper
- Wednesday, March 6 @ 6pm – Lenten Soup Supper
- Wednesday, March 13 @ 6pm – Lenten Soup Supper
- Wednesday, March 20 @ 6pm – Lenten Soup Supper

2024 Synod Assembly - May 11

Jesus names us “the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world,” and compares the kingdom of heaven or reign of God to “leaven” (Matthew 5:13–16; 13:33).

At the 2024 Synod Assembly, the North/West Lower Michigan Synod will celebrate ways our congregations are “salt of the earth,” “light of the world,” and “leaven” of the kingdom in ways large and small as we prayerfully participate in Jesus’s own work of reconciling the world to God’s very self.

The 2024 Synod Assembly will be held virtually via Zoom on May 11, 2024.

ELCA Youth Gathering 2024 - July 16 - July 20

The ELCA is jazzed to announce that we’re heading to New Orleans for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering, MYLE and the tAble! The Big Easy is filled with rich history, friendly locals, amazing food and great music, and we just can’t wait to go back.

Mark your calendars for July 16-20, 2024, to join us for this transformational faith formation event. MYLE and the tAble will take place immediately before on July 13-16.

Learn more at <https://www.elca.org/youthgathering>

Dates to Remember:

Sunday, February 4 - Adult Bible Study @ 9am, Worship @ 10am

Monday, February 5 - Worship Committee meeting @ 6:30pm

Wednesday, February 7 - Food Pantry Distribution @ 5:30pm

Sunday, February 11 - Adult Bible Study @ 9am, Worship @ 10am

Wednesday, February 14 - Ash Wednesday @ 6pm

Thursday, February 15 - Food Pantry Distribution @ 1pm, Council meeting @ 7pm

Sunday, February 18 - Adult Bible Study @ 9am, Worship @ 10am

Wednesday, February 21 - Women's Bible Study @ 11am,
Food Pantry Distribution @ 5:30pm

Sunday, February 25 - Adult Bible Study @ 9am, Worship @ 10am

Thursday, February 29 - Food Pantry Distribution @ 1pm

February Birthday Celebrations

2/3 - Liza Ko.

2/18 - Lynne Fo.

2/19 - Elene Ko.

2/22 - Barb Pa.



*if you were accidentally omitted, please contact the church via voicemail or email.

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Adult Bible Study 9am Worship	5 Worship Committee meeting 6:30pm	6	7 Food Pantry 5:30-7	8	9	10
11 Adult Bible Study 9am Worship	12	13	14 Ash Wednesday 6pm	15 Food Pantry 1-4 Council meeting 7pm	16	17
18 Adult Bible Study 9am Worship	19 Newsletter Deadline	20	21 Women's Bible Study 11am Soup Supper 6pm Food Pantry 5:30-7	22	23	24
25 Adult Bible Study 9am Worship	26	27	28 Soup Supper 6pm	29 Food Pantry 1-4		



St. Paul Lutheran Church

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**Our Purpose: Feeding God's people both
inside and outside while listening to what the
people need.**