



# PERSPECTIVE

## Monthly Newsletter of

St. Paul Lutheran Church—ELCA

200 N. Commercial Street • Neenah, WI 54956

(920) 725-3961 • [stpaulneenah.org](http://stpaulneenah.org)



*Gathering Joyfully, Growing Spiritually, & Going Faithfully,  
Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ!*

APRIL 2024

### From Pastor Amy



Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Every year I look forward to proclaiming the joy of these words on Easter Sunday! Jesus lives and because Jesus lives, we, too, live a new life! We are Easter people! We are resurrection people! We believe that life comes from death, joy comes

in sorrow, and hope springs up in the midst of despair!

It's important for us to remember this, not just at Easter, but every day. It seems like the world is filled with such "bad" news. The war in Ukraine has gone on much longer than anyone anticipated. The Palestinians in Gaza are starving and homeless as the war between Hamas and Israel rages on. As I write this, little Elijah Vue is still missing. We're facing another contentious election here in our country. The world around us is changing so fast and the church is taking a back seat in many people's lives – if it has any place at all.

That which Jesus experienced and endured on Good Friday portrays the same kind of world we live in. There is brokenness, suffering, rebellion, deceit, unfairness, and sin all around. What the world needed then is what the world needs today - a SAVIOR – and Jesus is his name!

Jesus didn't look on the world with contempt, but rather he had compassion. He befriended the tax collectors who cheated people out of money. He touched and healed those with diseases from whom others kept their distance. He sat at a table and shared meals with sinners. Even as he hung dying on the cross he was able to say, "Father, forgive them..." and to the thief hanging on a cross next to him, "Today you will be with me in paradise." In his life, suffering, death and resurrection, Jesus poured

out his love for the sake of a world desperately in need of salvation, redemption, and reconciliation.

As Easter people, we are called to be moved by the Holy Spirit to bring about signs of life in the midst of the darkness of this world. People are desperate for a life-giving word of hope: the risen Jesus is with us now and is working to bring life and wholeness to the world. We need to be responsive to the movement of the spirit of the risen Christ in our own lives as we befriend the lonely, love our enemies, walk alongside those who are oppressed, and comfort the grieving.

We need to be Easter people in a Good Friday world. We proclaim, "Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again." As a result of this truth, everything has changed! The power of the risen Christ has been unleashed in the world and we can be changed and be change agents in the name of Jesus. May we proclaim the good news of the resurrection not only with our lips, but with our lives on Easter and every day.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

In the joy of the resurrection,  
*Pastor Amy*

### 2024 Financial Information as of February 29, 2024

2024 Total Budget	\$363,343
Year-to-date Income	\$ 81,107
Year-to-date expenses	\$ 56,982
Difference	\$ 24,125



**ASSISTING MINISTERS**

**Hoks, Dave;** March 31; April 21  
**Thompson, Eric;** April 14; April 28; May 12  
**Tipler, Linda;** April 7; May 5

**GREETERS**

**Eckrich, Sue;** April 21  
**Grondahl, Butch;** April 14; May 12  
**Orlady, Nancy;** April 28  
**Procknow, Kathy;** March 31; May 5  
**Wyman, Laura;** April 7

**USHERS**

**Bauer, Roger;** April 7; April 28

**Boche, Don;** April 14; May 5  
**Evenson, Gene;** April 14; May 5  
**Grondahl, Butch;** April 7; April 28  
**Haufe, Linda;** March 31; April 21; May 12  
**Hemp, Lyle;** April 7; April 28  
**Macias, Alicia;** March 31; April 21; May 12  
**Parker, Linda;** March 31; April 21; May 12  
**Tipler, Eric;** April 14; May 5  
**Tipler, Cody;** April 14; May 5

**LECTORS / COMMUNION ASSISTANTS (c.a.)**

**Gillis, Becky;** March 31 c.a.; April 21 c.a.

**Hess, Jessica;** May 12 lector  
**Ihde, Eric;** May 5 lector  
**Hoks, Dave;** April 21 c.a.  
**Jorgensen, Lona;** April 7 c.a.; May 5 c.a.  
**Kalfahs, Darlene;** April 21 c.a.  
**Morgenstern, Connie;** April 21 lector  
**Roth, Paul;** April 28 lector  
**Strong, Cindy;** March 31 c.a.; May 5 c.a.  
**Tews, Jody;** April 7 lector  
**Thacker, Kelly;** April 14 lector  
**Tipler, Linda;** April 7 c.a.; May 5 c.a.  
**Wyman, Laura;** April 7 c.a.

**Rev. Amy Engebose**  
 Pastor  
 pastor@stpaulneenah.org

**Kris Grutzner**  
 Bookkeeper  
 office@stpaulneenah.org

**Todd Nerenhausen**  
 Facilities Manager  
 tnerenhausen@stpaulneenah.org

**Council**  
 Don Boche, President  
 Kathy Procknow, Vice-President  
 Audrey Borchers, Secretary  
 Monika Knapp, Treasurer  
 Dave Fink  
 Kurt Mayer  
 Amy Mentz

**Julie Owens**  
 Parish Administrator  
 parishadmin@stpaulneenah.org

**Eric Ihde**  
 Handbell & Sanctuary  
 Choirs  
 ihdeeric@gmail.com

**Linda and Gary Parker**  
 Custodians

**Jill Hagen**  
 Organist and Custodian

**MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS**

**Worship Ministry:** Pastor Amy Engebose  
 pastor@stpaulneenah.org

**Prayer Ministry:** Mike Dvorachek  
 mdvorachek@centurylink.net

**Property Ministry:** Don Boche  
 dboche@gmail.com

**Meal Ministry:** Alicia Macias  
 aliciacamimilooscar1@yahoo.com

**Mission Team:** Jill Hannemann  
 jilli1216@aol.com

**Knit2gether:** Diana Vieth  
 ninav500@icloud.com

**Quilting Angels:** Bev Quella  
 baquilla@gmail.com

**Safety Team:** Don Boche  
 dboche@gmail.com

Worship Services: Sundays at 9:30 a.m.  
 (in-person and online at Facebook and YouTube)  
 Office Hours: Monday—Friday, 8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.





## Calling All Youth Grades 6-12!

There are two youth events we will be participating in during the month of April!

First, we have been invited to a **lock-in** at Our Savior Lutheran Church here in Neenah on **April 12, 7:00 pm – 7:00 am**. If you've never been to a lock-in before, it's great fun! We lock ourselves into the church and fill the night and early morning with food, games, conversations, fellowship, and a whole lot of fun! There will be youth from several congregations there! See Pastor Amy for information on how to register!

Our second youth event is a synod-wide **bowling** event on **Saturday, April 20, noon-3:00 pm** at Rev's in Oshkosh. Cost is \$5 per person (St. Paul Church will pay the remainder of the cost) which includes bowling two games, shoes, and a lunch of pizza and soda! Please let Pastor Amy know by April 7 if you wish to go with us so she can get us signed up!

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## Council Corner

Greetings! Our first official council meeting for 2024 took place March 12, as several council members were unable to attend the February meeting. We welcomed our newest member, Kurt Mayer, and thank him for his service to St. Paul through this act of commitment to council. Thank you, Kurt!

Our first order of business was to discuss our meeting with Cathy Cowling that took place in the fellowship hall February 25. St. Paul hired Cathy to lead us through the process of discernment as our congregation decides how to move forward at this time in the life of our St. Paul. Cathy recommends that we establish a discernment team which council discussed at length. More information will be forthcoming. The next two meetings with Cathy will be April 14 and May 5. Please plan to be there! All of us are needed for this important process.

A team of four members dedicated their time to create the St. Paul Lutheran Church Gift Acceptance Policy, which council reviewed and approved. This document is available for all church members to review. Please contact the office if you are interested in seeing the Gift Acceptance policy.

Other discussion points included options for the use of our building. We may have a new partnership with the YMCA as they are interested renting the fellowship hall for planned days off school for the 2024-2025 school year starting in September. We also talked about the possibility of having another congregation "nest" in our building which will require much more discussion and input before any definitive conclusion is reached.

Council has an opportunity to hear more about Land Acknowledgement through Wartburg Seminary as presented in a virtual meeting on April 22.

Council retreat will take place on April 6, 2024. Please pray for our council members, congregation and Pastor Amy as we navigate through this time of discernment in the life of our church.

Submitted by Audrey Borchers, Council Secretary



## Welcome Julie Owens!

We are happy to welcome Julie Owens to the St. Paul Church staff as our Parish Administrator. Julie began training with Tamie O'Dell on March 11. Julie lives in Neenah and is a member of First Presbyterian Church. Please extend Julie a warm welcome and a lot of patience and grace as she learns all that being Parish Administrator encompasses.

## New Church Office Hours Begin in April

The church office hours will change beginning April 2. The new office hours are 8:00 am – 1:00 pm. Monday-Friday. These are the hours you will find Julie, the parish administrator, in the office. Pastor Amy is often here in the afternoons, but if you plan to come to the office after 1:00 p.m., please call the office first to make sure Pastor Amy is in the office.



## THANK YOU!

Dear St. Paul Congregation,

I would like to extend a most heartfelt and appreciation for “my big day” on Sunday, March 10. The celebration – and food – was amazing! I feel so blessed to be a part of this congregation and to have worked with you for these past 22 years.

I would also like to thank everyone who was involved in the planning, cooking, and purchasing of gifts – and for all of you who attended the event.

I have enjoyed working in the church office for the past 22 years and will greatly miss it. But I will be back – I will be around to volunteer and worship alongside of and with you in the future. I need to take some time away for you to become used to the new Parish Administrator, Julie Owens, as well as a break from being a part of the staff. Please allow Julie some time to become acquainted with the ins and outs of the job...especially since she is not a member of St. Paul.

Please know that I hold each and every one of you up in prayer. So, again, with much humbleness and love for you all, thank you! I will see you again soon!

Tamie O'Dell

Your “former” Parish Administrator



## Ladies' Breakfast

Tuesday, April 2, 9:00 a.m.

WeatherVane  
downtown Menasha

## MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE— MAY WE COUNT ON YOUR HELP?

- Online camera for streaming (see Gary O'Dell before or after worship)
- Ushers (see Don Boche)
- Assisting Ministers (call or see Pastor Amy)
- Communion Assistants (call or see Pastor Amy)
- Greeters (call Julie in the church office)
- Commercial Street reader board — change the message approximately every two weeks or so....
- Coffee Hour hosts ( sign up on table in narthex or call the church office)



## SAVE THE DATES FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

### ***Congregation Conversation Events with Cathy Cowling***

In February we had our first Congregation Conversation facilitated by Cathy Cowling. This series of conversations is to help us discern what God is calling us to do and to be in this community. Our next conversation with Cathy will be on **Sunday, April 14** immediately following worship, downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Childcare will be provided. Please plan on joining us as we move together as a community of faith into God's future for us!

### ***Bloom Women's Ministry***

The next Bloom Women's Ministry Event will be held on **Saturday, April 13, 9:00-11:00** in the Fellowship Hall. We will enjoy breakfast together, conversation, Bible study, and our guest speaker will be Chrissy Goethel, the Director of Fox Valley Community Table. Please RSVP by calling the church office or signing up at the church no later than April 7!

Participants are asked to bring toilet paper, paper towels, feminine hygiene products, or Depends undergarments. These items are in great need by Community Table guests and the items are not covered in the SNAP program.

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## **St. Paul's Blessing Box**



The suggested donation for the month of April are breakfast bars and granola bars.

Please leave donated items on the display table or in the wooden crate in the narthex. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing and generous support of this important ministry!

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## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP SPRUCE UP THE CHURCH**

We are looking for 3-4 people to help with planting in the south flower garden across from the Neenah/Menasha YMCA. We will gather **Saturday, May 18, 9:00 until about noon.**

We are also looking for people to do window work in the fellowship hall. There are 11 windows that are in need of:

1. Removal of storm windows
2. Clean the windows
3. Repair glazing
4. Prime storm & double-hung windows
5. Reinstall storms

Because of the steps involved, the work will be done over 3 Saturday mornings from 8:00—1:00.

- \* **May 18**
- \* **June 15**
- \* **July 20**

Your help is greatly appreciated!



**BIRTHDAYS**



April 1  
Kathy Krock  
Shelley Taycher  
Gladys Schwandt

April 4  
Sam Ewald  
Caryl Meyer  
Scott Randall

April 7  
Gail Goetz  
Linda Tipler

April 9  
Ken Blom

April 10  
Noah Festge

April 11  
Dave Fink  
Julie Rosenthal  
Levi Schwartz

April 12  
Lona Jorgensen

April 13  
Matt Brehmer  
Randy Vohen

April 16  
Jim Plier  
Maysun Rosenthal

April 17  
Jennifer Schmidli

**ANNIVERSARIES**



April 2, 2005  
Anthony &  
Eulalie Leiton

April 11, 1984  
Dan & Cindy Klepps

April 11, 1987  
Gary & Tamie O'Dell

April 16, 1988  
Dan & Kalen Peterson

April 19, 2014  
Jeff & Becky Gillis

April 21, 2001  
Eric & Linda Tipler

**Vacation Bible School: Camp Firelight!  
Meeting on Tuesday, April 16 at 6:30 pm!**

Planning has already begun for this year's Vacation Bible School. We are again joining with the other Neenah ELCA congregations for VBS. St. Paul Church is the host congregation and site this year! **VBS is August 5-8, 9:00 am- Noon.** Our coordination team (Cindy Rieck, Monika Knapp, Katie Rosenthal-Mayer, and Pastor Amy) have chosen Camp Firelight as our curriculum.

There will be a meeting of VBS volunteers on **Tuesday, April 16 at 6:30 p.m.** here at St. Paul Church in the fellowship hall. We will need registration people, teachers (bible storytelling, craft, snack, recreation, science and preschool teachers), teachers assistants, small group "counselors", floaters, decorators...there are a lot of positions to fill and we will need everyone's help! More information will be given at the meeting, so please plan to attend!

The past several years other congregations have offered an early drop off option for parents who work, allowing them to bring their child(ren) to the church as early as 7:30 a.m. to be cared for until VBS starts at 9:00. If you would be willing to provide childcare here at the church from 7:30-8:50 any of the mornings of VBS, please let Pastor Amy know. We would like to continue to offer this opportunity to parents if possible.

If you have any questions or are unable to attend the meeting on April 16, please contact a member of the coordination team to let us know of your interest in helping make this year's VBS the best ever!

# April Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>31</b> EASTER 9:30am Worship 10:45am GIFT Time	<b>1</b> OFFICE CLOSED (EASTER MONDAY)	<b>2</b> 9:00am Ladies' Breakfast 9:00am Quilting Angels 11:30am Community Table 6:00pm Executive Committee 7:00pm Property	<b>3</b> 10:00am Staff Meeting	<b>4</b> 9:00am Conversations on Scripture @ Shellatte's 6:15pm Handbells Choir practice 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir practice	<b>5</b> 9:00am Knit2gether	<b>6</b> 9:00am Council Retreat (offsite) 11:30am Community Table
<b>7</b> 9:30am Worship  10:45am GIFT Time 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Al-Anon	<b>8</b> 1:30pm Memory Care Respite 6:30pm Bldg Feasibility Task Force	<b>9</b> 9:00am Quilting Angels 11:30am Community Table 6:30pm Council Meeting	<b>10</b> 10:00am Staff Meeting	<b>11</b> 9:00am Conversations on Scripture @ Shellatte's 6:15pm Handbells Choir practice 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir practice	<b>12</b> 9:00am Knit2gether	<b>13</b> 11:30am Community Table
<b>14</b> 9:30am Worship 10:45am GIFT Time 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Al-Anon	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:00am Quilting Angels 11:30am Community Table	<b>17</b> 10:00am Staff Meeting	<b>18</b> 9:00am Conversations on Scripture @ Shellatte's 6:15pm Handbells Choir practice 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir practice	<b>19</b> 9:00am Knit2gether	<b>20</b> 11:30am Community Table 11:59pm Perspective Deadline
<b>21</b> 9:30am Worship  10:45am GIFT Time 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Al-Anon	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9:00am Quilting Angels 11:30am Community Table 7:30pm Worship & Music mtg.	<b>24</b> 10:00am Staff Meeting	<b>25</b> 9:00am Conversations on Scripture @ Shellatte's 6:15pm Handbells Choir practice 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir practice	<b>26</b> 9:00am Knit2gether	<b>27</b> 11:30am Community Table hosted by St. Paul
<b>28</b> 9:30am In-Person & Online Worship 10:45am GIFT Time 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Al-Anon	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:00am Quilting Angels 11:30am Community Table	<b>1</b> 10:00am Staff Meeting	<b>2</b> 9:00am Conversations on Scripture @ Shellatte's 6:15pm Handbells Choir practice 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir practice	<b>3</b> 9:00am Knit2gether	<b>4</b> 11:30am Community Table

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## St. Paul Serves Fox Valley Community Table

Please mark your calendars for the second date St. Paul serves Fox Valley Community Table in 2024: **Saturday April 27!** A warm and nutritious lunch will be offered and we look forward to your continued participation in this important ministry. Please look for specific information in early April about how you can help by donating food and helping to serve.

We are so grateful for the abundance of food donations and helpers we had for our January 30<sup>th</sup> meal! Thanks to the generosity of you good St. Paul folks, over 75 meals (dine in and take out) were served to our neighbors. Chrissy Goethel, FVCT site director, discussed the impact of our ministry recently. She wrote: "We're seeing many new faces in the dining room and although I don't ask, some guests share their reasons in conversation. Rents have gone up and affordable housing is tight, some are staying on a friend's couch or in their car. Groceries are expensive. It's hard to make friends. We welcome everyone at FVCT and our meals ease the struggles a bit. Guests frequently thank us, and I want to pass that on to you because all of you together provide kindness and support here twice a week. Between us and Double Portion, folks can enjoy a good meal in a friendly dining room 5 days a week. We make a good consistent impact in helping our neighbors. Thank you."

With gratitude for your generosity,  
Cindy Rieck and Jody Tews