



ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

MARCH 2024

ISSUE 84

VOLUME 3



MARCH 2024

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ELIZABETH

Dear Members and Friends of St. Paul's,

*Return to the Lord, your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger,
and abounding in steadfast love. (Joel 2:13)*

This month we continue to journey through the season of Lent. We are joining with other churches in our synod for mid-week Bible study. The series, *Encountering God*, begins with a short video where the presenter introduces the topic and scripture. We will then engage in open conversation around the table exploring our faith and seeing how God is active in our lives. Our evening concludes with a service of Holden Evening Prayer in the sanctuary at 7:00pm. Thank you to the cantors who will be leading us in the meditative prayer service this year.

Holy week will begin with the Palm Sunday worship service on March 24. We will gather on the front lawn (if the weather cooperates) with our palms and parade around the building and into the sanctuary. We will also hear the reading of *The Passion according to St. Mark* and come together at the Lord's Table to celebrate Holy Communion.

The Great Three Days begins on Maundy (Holy) Thursday, March 28. We will be reminded of Jesus' last meal with his disciples and how he humbled himself by washing their feet. There will be an opportunity for the congregation to have their feet washed during this service. We will also see the altar stripped in preparation for the continuation of worship the next day.

Good Friday's worship on March 29 is a Tenebrae service. You will enter into the empty sanctuary, and will hear the words from *The Passion according to St. John*. After each reading, a candle will be extinguished.

It is powerful to see the light being snuffed out only to be brought back on Easter Sunday. The day of Resurrection, the day when we gather to celebrate Christ being raised from the dead and bring back the Alleluias that have been buried for the past six weeks.

I continue to keep you all in my prayers as you travel through the wilderness of Lent. You belong to God and were marked with the cross of Christ forever in your baptism.

Peace and Blessings,

The Rev. Elizabeth A Cummings

ST. PAUL'S MISSION STATEMENT:

We of St. Paul's Lutheran Church believe in God's grace given to us freely. We are called to faithfully follow God's Word, sharing in the good news of this grace. We are to be God's hands helping those in need—those we know, and those we do not know.

When we say, "Here I am Lord," we express our desire to become disciples of Christ, accepting the mission to do what is asked of us. Our prayer on this journey is to walk with faith, to love one another, to share God's love and to be the hands of God.



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MARCH GOSPEL READINGS

March 3rd:	John 2:13-22
March 10th:	John 3:14-21
March 17th:	John 12:20-23
March 24th:	Mark 14:1--15:47
March 31st:	Mark 16:1-8



Wednesday Evenings in Lent...Bible Study Conversation



On five consecutive Wednesday evenings during Lent, beginning February 21st, please join Paster Elizabeth as we will gather for Bible Study at 6:00 pm followed by a liturgy service of Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00 p.m.

Encountering God: Moving Forward with a Changing Church A Lenten Collaborative Bible Study

Thursday Evenings starting February 22 from 7-8 pm via Zoom with the Presenter from Synod. Contact Martha Whyte at mwhyte@nesynod.org for Zoom registration.

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The Wednesday Get-Together Group will be starting up again on March 6th at 10:00 AM sharp. This will be an organizational meeting to discuss some fresh new ideas for 2024 events.

We will also have a short meeting to make plans for our Bake Sale on March 23rd. Please bring a sack lunch; the beverage will be provided. Look forward to seeing you there!

ST. PAUL'S EASTER MEMORIAL GARDEN

REVISED FLOWER PRICES

We are looking forward to once again having our memorial garden in the church on Easter Morning. This year the cost of the plants is as follows:

Tulips and Daffodils \$12.50

Easter Lilies \$18.50

Please write on your order form your plant selection of Tulips, Daffodils and/or Lilies and the number of each. Forms will also be available at church or in the weekly email.

Orders and payment must be in by March 11th.

2024 EASTER MEMORIAL GARDEN - PLANT ORDER FORM

Please print name(s) exactly as you want it (them) to appear:
Given in memory of _____

REVISED Flower prices:

Tulips (\$12.50 each)

Daffodils (\$12.50 each)

Easter Lilies (\$18.50 each)

Number of Plants _____

Number of Plants _____

Number of Plants _____



Total Amount \$ _____

Orders and Payment need to be in the church office by March 11th.

The following are options for your selection:

Take Plant Home _____

Donate Plant for our Homebound _____

FOOD PANTRY A Ministry of St. Paul's Church

The new year has started and the Food Pantry continues to provide for those in need. Pastor Elizabeth stops by on a weekly basis and we are grateful for her help, advice and support.

During the month of January, the Food Pantry served 185 clients with 527 family members. Our clientele always expresses their sincere appreciation to St. Paul's for the help they are receiving. We are very thankful to our church members for their generosity and for answering our call for various food items when we are experiencing a shortage.

We want to thank Barbara Bendzinski for the many colorful scarves she has knitted and given to the Food Pantry. Our clients were thrilled to have an item of warmth.

We are saying "good bye" to a good friend - JoAnn Formica, who is leaving us to take a new job. We will miss JoAnn as she was a valuable person who acted as our translator.

The Food Pantry has welcomed several new volunteers; Sue & Dick Agne, Bruce Cutler, Josh Grzclak, Janice Gengras & Justin and Michael Lord. We are so grateful for their service.



Our Food Pantry needs for March 2024 are:

Coffee, Ramen Noodles.
Cereal and Canned fruit



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Stop&Shop Bloomin' 4 Good Program



STOP&SHOP
Bloomin' 4 Good Program
BUD



On March 1st, St. Paul's Food Pantry starts benefiting from the Stop & Shop Bloomin' 4 Good Program at:

206 Kitts Lane, Newington CT
80 Town Line Road, Rocky Hill CT

Make sure everyone knows that for every specially marked \$10.99 Bloomin' 4 Good bouquet purchased during March, Stop & Shop will donate \$1 to St. Paul's Food Pantry!



This year we will once again be having our Fresh Flower Cross for Easter Sunday.

Please remember to bring a fresh flower to church on March 31st!!

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Spring Bake Sale
Saturday, March 23rd
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

We know it's only been four months since the last request, but we really need to ask you for more dough! It's Spring Bake Sale Time — Saturday, March 23rd from 9am — 1 pm and we are hoping our members will again be willing to help fill our bakery tables.

The proceeds will go toward refinishing the four outside wood entry doors leading into Fellowship Hall and the Pastor's Office. Our goal is to raise \$1,320 to complete this project. Please contribute to this church project by baking some of your specialties for the Bake Sale. If you can't bake and wish to donate, a monetary donation can be given.

Bakery suggestions and a sign-up sheet are posted on the Whiteboard in Fellowship Hall.

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Saint Paul's
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Holy Week 2024 Schedule ***All are welcome!***

Passion/Palm Sunday – March 24th – 10 am

We celebrate Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem and join in the reading of the Passion according to Mark.

Maundy Thursday – March 28th – 7:00 pm

We remember the Last Supper Jesus shared with his disciples and participate in the ritual of foot washing.

Good Friday – March 29th – 7:00 pm

It is finished. In the empty Sanctuary, we will hear from John's gospel in Tenebrae service of reflection.

Easter Sunday – March 31st – 10 am

The Resurrection of Our Lord! Join us as we celebrate that Christ has Risen! He has risen indeed! Alleluia!

371 Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield, CT
StPaulsWethersfield.org

MARCH 2024

The Greater Hartford Lutheran Conference invites you to an

EARTH DAY EVE GATHERING

Sunday, April 21 3:00-5:00p.m.

Emanuel Lutheran Church: 311 Capital Ave., Hartford



As People of Faith, Caretakers of God's
Creation what is and what can be our
response to helping create an...


Environmentally Sustainable
Spiritually Fulfilling
Socially Just
Human presence on this Earth.

Join with others from Greater Hartford Congregations in this dynamic, interactive program. Using resources from New England Green Team, Lutherans Restoring Creation and Awakening the Dreamer, we will explore our current situation and hopeful possibilities for now and into the future.

A light supper will be served.

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BIBLE VERSE OF THE MONTH

A scenic view of a forest with trees reflecting in a calm body of water. The text is overlaid on the image.

For now we see
only a reflection
as in a mirror;
then we shall see
face to face.

1 Corinthians 13:12a

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HAPPENINGS AROUND ST. PAUL'S

BINGO PICS!



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MORE BINGO PICS!



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Donate Life - Pancake Breakfast Pics



Photos by
Joy Hansen

MARCH 2024

**OUR CHOIR SINGING "WE ARE MARCHING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD"
ON A RECENT SUNDAY MORNING**



**OUR FOOD
PANTRY CREW
ENJOYING
SOME PIZZA
AFTER A BUSY
MORNING!**

MARCH 2023

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS - March THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

MARCH 3rd:

ASSISTING MINISTER: Mary Procyk
READER: Mary Procyk
USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppap & Sophia
ALTAR: Carol Bruce
COUNTER: Mary Procyk
FELLOWSHIP HOUR:

MARCH 10th:

ASSISTING MINISTER: **NEED**
READER: Matt Perry
USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppap & Sophia
ALTAR: Elaine Strecker
COUNTER: Bob Bowman
FELLOWSHIP HOUR:

MARCH 17TH:

ASSISTING MINISTER: Joy Hansen
READER: Joan Kratzer
USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppap & Sophia
ALTAR: **NEED**
COUNTER: Dave Hourigan
FELLOWSHIP HOUR: Alice Ruppap & Sophia

MARCH 24TH - PALM SUNDAY: READERS NEEDED

ASSISTING MINISTER: Carol Bruce
READERS: Narrator - Pastor Elizabeth
Jesus -
Judas -
Servant -
Witness -
USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppap & Sophia
ALTAR: Patty Bengtson
COUNTER: Judy Gerken
FELLOWSHIP HOUR:



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WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS - March THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

MARCH 28TH - MAUNDY THURSDAY:

ASSISTING MINISTER: **NEED**
READER: Joan Kratzer
USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppard & Sophia
ALTAR:
COUNTER: Bob Bowman
FELLOWSHIP HOUR:



MARCH 29TH - GOOD FRIDAY: READERS NEEDED

ASSISTING MINISTER: Sue Agne
READERS:
JOHN 18:1-11 Joan Kratzer
JOHN 18:12-27 Joy Hansen
JOHN 18:28-40
JOHN 19:1-7 Sue Agne
JOHN 19:8-16a
JOHN 19:23-30
JOHN 19:13-42 Joan Kratzer

MARCH 31ST - EASTER SUNDAY

ASSISTING MINISTER: Joy Hansen
READER: Joy Hansen
USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppard & Sophia
ALTAR: **NEED**
COUNTER: Heather Christensen

No Fellowship Hour due to Easter Holiday!

MARCH 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 SALEM CHURCH
3 10:00 AM WORSHIP COFFEE HOUR AFTER WORSHIP	4	5 WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE MTG 4:30 PM	6 Wed. Get- Together Grp 10 AM Bible Study 6:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer 7 pm CHOIR 7:30 pm	7 FOOD PANTRY 10:00-1:00	8	9 SALEM CHURCH
10 10:00 AM WORSHIP COFFEE HOUR AFTER WORSHIP	11	12 PARISH ADMIN MTG 6:30 PM	13 Wed. Get- Together Grp 10 AM Bible Study 6:15 pm Holden Evening Prayer 7 pm CHOIR 7:30 PM	14 FOOD PANTRY 10:00-1:00 COMMUNICIONS MTG. 6:00 pm	15	16 SALEM CHURCH
17  10:00 AM WORSHIP COFFEE HOUR AFTER WORSHIP	18	19 COUNCIL MTG 7:00 PM	20 Wed. Get- Together Grp 10 AM Bible Study 6:15 pm Holden Evening Prayer 7 pm	21 FOOD PANTRY 10:00-1:00	22	23 SALEM CHURCH SPRING BAKE SALE 9AM - 1 PM
24 PALM SUNDAY 10:00 AM WORSHIP COFFEE HOUR AFTER WORSHIP	25	26	27 Wed. Get- Together Grp 10 AM Bible Study 6:15 pm Holden Evening Prayer 7 pm	28 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7 PM FOOD PANTRY 10:00-1:00	29 GOOD FRIDAY 7 PM	30 SALEM CHURCH

31 EASTER SUNDAY

10:00 AM
WORSHIP

PLEASE BRING FRESH
FLOWER FOR
EASTER CROSS



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PASTOR:

The Reverend Elizabeth Cummings
pastor@stpaulswethersfield.org

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

Lorraine Gianakos
office@stpaulswethersfield.org

MINISTER OF MUSIC:

Melissa Cheyney
missycheyney@yahoo.com

**SUPERINTENDENT OF
SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL:**

Alice Rupparr
arupparr@sbcglobal.net

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