

EPISTLE

Quarterly



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ROOTED AND GROWING



*“But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us”
~ The Apostle Paul, second letter to the Corinthians, chapter 4:7*

Since this week includes Valentine’s Day, I would like to share a bit of romance advice (backed up by new research into brain chemistry!).

It turns out that in order to “woo” someone, we need to be impressive; we need to catch their eye, steal their affection and sweep them off their feet. However, it turns out that once this has happened, the next thing that must happen is that we must let them in. We must share our emotions, our dreams, our fears and our hopes with them. In short, we must be vulnerable with them. In fact, for the rest of the relationship, we no longer need to be impressive. We need to be anti-impressive; we need to be vulnerable.

Sounds easy, right? Definitely not. We all know that vulnerability is extremely difficult.

Few of us want to appear weak; even fewer of us want to expose ourselves to potentially being hurt by someone else. In a world in which our lives are airbrushed, cropped and curated, we feel even more pressure to make sure everything looks one hundred percent good, in fact, glorious! We spend a great amount of time and effort trying to make it appear to the world that we have our stuff together.

There is one whom we cannot fool though! When Jesus encounters people in Scripture, he has an amazing capacity to see people for who they are – he can sense their weaknesses; he knows their sins; he knows their deep longings. While this is striking, what is more amazing, I would add, is that in spite of all of this knowledge about their fundamental brokenness, he is not uncomfortable around them. He can handle being in their midst, knowing all the stuff they would rather no one else knew. In fact, he caringly brings them to a point where they are forced to acknowledge their own need for grace.

Each week this Lent we will hear of an encounter of Jesus with someone. In each encounter, we will see how Jesus gets to the heart of the matter with blinding speed. Yet, in the end, he does not use this power to condemn the other, but to bring new life and healing. As we encounter Jesus this Lent, we too will be challenged to confront our own weaknesses: our sins, our insecurities and finally our mortality. Yet we too will hear and discover the new life Jesus has in store for us.

In Christ,

Pastor Rob Myallis



Vicar Kimberly Todd

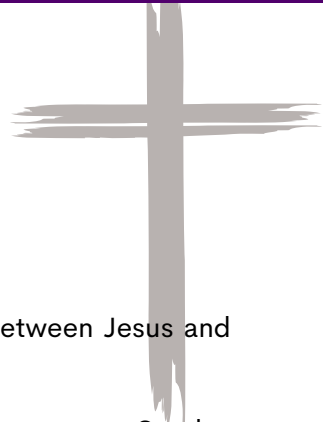
We uplift Kimberly Todd as Vicar Kimberly. "Vicar" is a term used in Lutheran churches to denote a seminary student who is working at a congregation. Vicar Kimberly is currently in her second year of seminary and continues to lead our congregation in faith formation and service. God Bless Vicar Kimberly!



Vicar Kimberly with her husband, Nicholas.

ENCOUNTERING

JESUS



Sunday morning worship will be centered on a different encounter between Jesus and another figure; all of the stories come from John's Gospel.

We will work through these stories from John's Gospel in small groups on Sunday mornings and in pod-and-pub sessions. Our podcast is also available to everyone on our website.

Sunday Small Groups, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Lent is a great time to check out an adult small group! Several Sunday morning small groups will be listening to and discussing the new season of the Ponder Anew Podcast, and There's a place for you! See the bulletin board in the Narthex or the church website for small groups and locations.

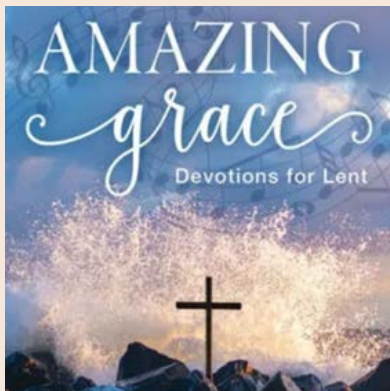


Pod & Pub Returns for Lent! Listen to a new episode of the Ponder Anew podcast each week of Lent, and then meet up with others at the Bull's Head Pub in Lititz on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. (March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5) to discuss it. There is always more room at the pub table! Check out the coolest small group in Lititz this Lent.



Ponder Anew Podcast, Season 8
Pastor Rob will explore the Gospel of John in his Bible Study podcast. Uncover the stories of people who encountered Jesus in a life-altering way. Encounter Jesus in your story, too.

ENCOUNTERING JESUS



Amazing Grace: Devotions for Lent
Trivia Question – Do you know how old the song, Amazing Grace, turns this year? Pick up your copy of this year's Lenten devotional to find out! Take a journey through scripture, reflection, and prayer to explore the timeless truths this song contains. Booklets are available in the Narthex beginning Sunday, February 19th while supplies last. Take one, share one!

Mid-week Worship: We will offer a combined meal and worship service on Thursday nights from 6-7 PM in the social hall. Explore Paul's words about vulnerability in 1st Corinthians, play with clay, and break bread together.



Ash Wednesday Services
7AM, 11AM, 7PM



St. Paul has a portable indoor prayer labyrinth. If you would like to walk it during Lent, please contact the church office.

Meet Lyle Hosler, St. Paul Director of Operations



St. Paul welcomes Lyle Hosler as our Director of Operations. This is a new role at St. Paul, in which Lyle will oversee financial, facility and policy functions of the church.

As a fifth generation Lancasterian, I grew up in Manheim Township and still reside there today. Faith has been a big part of my life since experiencing the presence of a welcoming church and close knit youth group during my pre-college years. As a youth, I also enjoyed playing golf and baseball, continuing my baseball career at Susquehanna University.

In 2001, I graduated from Susquehanna with a degree in business / finance and a minor in information systems.

In addition to playing baseball at Susquehanna, I was also heavily involved in InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, and met my wife, Joy, who is from Ephrata. Joy and I will celebrate our 20th anniversary this summer. We have three children, Ellen (14), Anne (12), and Jeremy (9).

After an initial job at Fidelity Investments in Massachusetts, I moved back to Lancaster to work for Fulton Bank / Fulton Financial as a Management Trainee, rising up through the commercial side of the bank as a Senior Commercial Credit Analyst.

In 2005, I transitioned to Economic Development Company of Lancaster County (EDC), a not-for-profit organization focused on the economic health and well-being of Lancaster County. At EDC I worked as a Project Manager, Director of Finance, and finally Vice President over the course of 17 years, concluding in the fall of 2022.

I enjoy being outside and exploring outdoor recreation whenever possible. I have been on the Board of the Lutheran Camping Corporation for the past 5 years and I am the

Board Chair for 2023. The rest of the family also shares a passion for camp and outdoor activities. I have volunteered with Junior Achievement for the past 8 years and have coached all my children in youth soccer over the course of 9 years. Our family has also constructed and hosted backyard ice skating at our Manheim Township home for the past 9 years. Our rink is 32'x56' and we have more than 30 pairs of ice skates to help families have fun during the cold winter months. Unfortunately, 2023 may be our first year without a rink in the past decade due to the warm weather.



Hosler backyard ice rink



Q&A

with Lyle

What are you looking forward to most about coming to St. Paul?

After a 21 year career in not-for-profit leadership, finance, and lending, our family felt a new calling entering 2022.

Joy was being called back to the classroom as an

English teacher in the Hempfield School District and I wanted to explore new opportunities outside of lending. I was attracted to St. Paul by the amazing staff team and the momentum the congregation has moving into 2023. I am looking forward to helping to operationalize the new strategic plan, modernize the financial, technical, and internal systems, and being part of the exciting solar installation project.

What are you reading now (or your favorite)?

LNP - Every morning I enjoy reading the traditional printed newspaper with breakfast!

Who does the cooking in your house?

Joy does the cooking, I do the finances. However, I do take charge of scrambled eggs and pancakes for breakfast a couple times per month.

If you won the \$\$\$\$ lottery, what would you do?

I would take some (\$) to buy a fun second home in the mountains or at the beach and figure out a way to use the rest to better the community at large.

Small Group Retreat Weekend

2nd Annual Talk the Walk with Families Winter Retreat at Camp Kirchenwald

From Friday night to Sunday afternoon, ten families retreated together to Camp Kirchenwald (a 30 minute drive from St. Paul). Friday night started with a Bible-based family activity and prayer followed by fireside games and goodies. Saturday saw a trek through the winter woods, challenge on the low ropes course, and an epic game of kids vs. parents Capture the Flag, as well as quiet time to journal or sketch and gather in prayer. Prize-winning Bingo capped off a full day. All participated in faith formation and online worship on Sunday morning...all from a cozy lodge.



Parents scrape a close Win over kids in an Epic game of Capture the Flag



Families Challenge Each Other on the Low Ropes Course at Kirchenwald



St. Paul "Card Sharks" enjoying the retreat.



Faith Formation & Fellowship



**Families Gather in Fireside Prayer
at Kirchenwald**



**Children Join Deacon Emily for Sunday's
Children's Sermon from Kirchenwald**

You're invited to consider how a group you're a part of might getaway together for a time of recreation, refreshment, and spiritual renewal at one of the three wonderful Lutheran Camping Corporation sites!



**Food and Fellowship are enjoyed on the
Retreat at Kirchenwald**





ST. PAUL | Youth

ST. PAUL YOUTH GROUP

Lenten Devotional Breakfasts

On Wednesdays during Lent, all St. Paul youth and their friends are invited to join us in the social hall from 7:00 am - 7:30 am for a hearty breakfast and a time of devotion before school.

High School Breakfasts

March 1, March 15 and March 29

Middle School Breakfast:

March 8, March 22 and April 5

Please sign up on **BAND** the Sunday prior so we have a head-count.

Youth Winter Service Project Flowers for Widows



On February 12th, the St. Paul youth group spread the love to those missing their spouses this Valentine's Day. Teams of youth and families spent the afternoon delivering flowers and handwritten cards to 25 widows/widowers in our congregation. A special thanks to Hendrick's Flowers for helping support this special act of service and love!



Youth Winter Scene



In January, our youth group had “snow” much fun snow tubing together at Iron Valley.



On February 5th, our annual soup sale fundraiser was a huge success, thanks to the outpouring of support from our congregation. We raised over \$1,200, which helps us keep retreats and summer trips affordable for all families. Thank you so much to everyone who donated soup or purchased soup to support our youth!

Last month the St. Paul Youth attended a winter retreat at Camp Kirchenwald. The weekend was filled with bible study, team-building, and experiencing God's creation.





ST. PAUL | Children

Children's Ministry

EPIPHANY

*A reflection on Epiphany to the tune of "This Little Light of Mine!"
Sing as you read about our adventures this winter with Children at Church*

This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine
Started with a star
Wisemen from afar
This is Epiphany
Light helps us to see
Helps us see, helps us see, helps us see



In the season of Light
We had fun day and night
An Epiphany Party was had
All the kids were glad
Stargazing in the night
We were led by Light
Led by light, led by light, led by light



Who's this Jesus of mine?
This is the right time
To learn his word & know
He's everywhere I go
Bibles for the boys
All were filled with joy
Filled with joy, filled with joy,
filled with joy

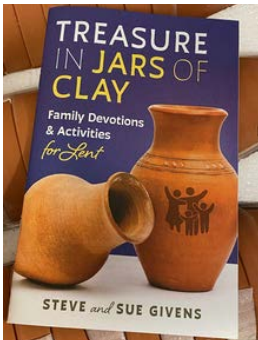


This little church of mine
Goes to camp to shine!
At the winter retreat
Fun there can't be beat
Church is a broad place
Of people filled with grace
Filled with grace, filled with grace,
filled with grace

Looking for signs of love?
We see them above!
Handmade for our tree
Chrismons made lovingly
Symbols of what he's done
Jesus, God's only Son
He's the Son, He's the Son, like the SUN!



Children's Ministry – Lent



All children/families will receive a special **Lenten Devotional Booklet** for you to keep in a special place at home. It's called **"Treasure in Clay Jars"**. Along with it, you'll receive a small clay jar. You can use this clay jar as the collection place for the simple home-faith activities inside the booklet. Pick up your book & jar on Feb. 19th in Sunday School or Feb. 22 at Worship or contact Deacon Emily.



Take a Bible Verse!

Children's Sermons in Lent will focus on "Encounters with Jesus"! Each week, the children will get a front-row seat to hearing the Gospel read at 10:45am by Youth. At both worship services, we will take a Bible Verse from the Gospel reading out of a handmade Clay Jar. We'll learn the verse together and each child will take the verse home. Once you've learned the verse, you can put it in your family Clay Jar!



FRIDAY CLAY DAYS

3:30pm–4:45pm

Grades 3, 4, 5, 6:

March 3 (sculpt)

March 10 (paint)

Grades preschool, K, 1 & 2:

March 17 (sculpt)

March 24 (paint)

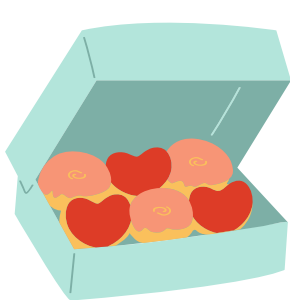


Sign-up at: timetosignup.com/stpaulworship
Sessions limited to 10.

St. Paul
Christian Early Learning Center



March 5 is CELC Sunday! We'll celebrate the amazing Children's Ministry that happens every day at St. Paul through the outreach of our Early Learning Center!



Please sign-up in the Narthex to provide treats to the Teachers Lounge during the week of March 6-10, National Lutheran Schools Week. We are also collecting local Gift Cards for \$10 value to be given as gifts to the CELC Teachers. Please place them in the lock-box in the narthex. THANK YOU! Contact: Deacon Emily.

GAME DAY!

UNO TOURNAMENT
MARCH 5, 2023

Join us on Sunday, March 5th at 3:30pm for tournament -style Uno!

St. Paul youth, Colin Maryniak created this friendly competition which is sure to be a fun afternoon! No need to sign up. The competition will be held in the social hall and snacks will be provided.

Bring your friends! This event is for everyone. See you there!

This is *Uno* event you won't want to "skip"!

UNO TOURNAMENT

Grand Finals

1 Elusive	2 TD
5 Omega_XK	1 Elusive

Losers Round 2

6 Action John	1 Elusive
4 DMG2zay	6 Action John
5 Omega_XK	
3 TekkenFan77	

Prizes for top 3!

March 5, 2023 at 3:30pm
St. Paul Social Hall

PRIZES!



MUSIC MINISTRY



2023 Spring Music Ministry Opportunities

**Special Invitation to Youth and Adults to Sing
for worship on Good Friday and Easter Sunday!**



Life is busy! Schedules are challenging! The Choir would love for you to come and sing with them! Come to at least 2-3 rehearsals in late March and early April on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm to lift your voice and learn the music that will be offered on Good Friday and Easter Sunday! Please see Becky with any questions or interest.

St. Paul Choir Rehearsal is on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 pm - 7:20 pm. We will be preparing music for Lent and Easter Sunday. Come and sing with this wonderful group of people!

Jubilate Handbell Rehearsal is on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Please talk with Becky if interested.



“Sing Time”, a new music opportunity for children in Grades 3 - 6.

Ms. Becky, the Music Ministry Director would love to gather children to sing a song for Palm Sunday with the younger children, plus singing a song on Easter! We would meet for 15-20 minutes after the 10:45 worship service on March 12, 19, and 26. Parents, please see Becky with any questions or interest.

“ChimeTime” is returning on March 1st for children in Grades 3 – 6 and will take place on Wednesday afternoons in the Sanctuary from 4:00 pm – 4:45 pm. We will learn a handchime song to offer in worship on March 26. Bring your friends!

**Want to know more or have questions?
Contact Becky, Director of Music Ministry
at beckyr@stpaulsititz.net**