

# The Epistle

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

***March 2025***



*Gathered to Go . . . to study God's Word, Worship together; and to walk with Christ by loving, serving and nurturing all God's people where ever they are and whatever their circumstances.*



## **From Pastor Lori**

Dear Siblings in Christ,

The season of Lent is a time of reflection, repentance and so-called “Spring Cleaning for the Soul.” We start with Ash Wednesday, when we will receive ashes on our foreheads to remind us of our mortality. Then we journey through the 40 days of Lent. This is a time to intentionally make room in our lives for practices that help us focus on God, such as prayer, fasting and acts of service. Finally, we will observe follow Jesus to the cross during Holy Week and celebrate his resurrection on Easter Sunday.

The word “Lent” comes from an old English word for springtime. In the early years of the church it was confined to a few days before Easter. But by the fourth century, Lent was extended to forty days before Easter, a period associated with the forty days and nights that Jesus spent being tempted in the wilderness right after his baptism.

Lent provides a momentary pause to rethink the fundamental purpose of our lives. It can lead to transformation and a deeper understanding about what it means to be the body of Christ. This Lent, we will use our Core Values to guide our journey. I’m looking forward to discovering how worship, service, hospitality, generosity and connectivity help us become the people God has called us to be!

Blessings on your Lenten journey,  
*Pastor Lori*



### **A Quote from Martin Luther**

*“Christ is not one who will cast down the troubled, but one who will raise up the fallen and bring propitiation and consolation to the terrified.”*

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# *Church Council News*

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## **Core Values Banner**

Last year we identified Worship, Service, Generosity, Hospitality and Connectivity as the core values that guide the way we do ministry here at St. Paul's. A banner with these important aspects of our mission as a congregation will hang behind the organ to help us be mindful of the way God has called and gifted us to be the body of Christ here in Penn Yan and around the world.

A special thank you to Jennifer Jensen for creating and making the banner!

## **Core Value- Service the Sharing Shed**

Each month we as a congregation support financially a local organization or ministry with our Local Hunger Offering. During March we will continue supporting The Sharing Shed with our offerings. In connection with our Core Value of "Service", we are high-lighting this ministry by having someone speak about The Sharing Shed during worship on March 9, 2025 and with this article.

The Sharing Shed was established with funds from the Banchong Homhouane Bequest received by St. Paul's in 2020 upon Bon's death. Bon and his family were supported by the St. Paul's Congregation when they relocated from Laos by providing them with housing, learning English, and helping Bon find a job. In return, Bon blessed St. Paul's with a large sum of money upon his death which was then used to reach out and help others.

The Flowing Forth Ministry was established using a portion of the bequest. This ministry consists of two parts: One portion to establish new ministries and the other, called The Flex Fund, to be used toward educational programs and providing a fund for those in the community when urgent care needs arise.

The new ministry of The Sharing Shed was born under the heading of New Ministries. The Sharing Shed has not replaced any other resources being provided, but it is an additional way to help our next-door neighbors when a need arises and other places are closed. It also offers our neighbors a place to fill a need with dignity. It is not a food shed or a grocery store, but a place to get something extra if and when needed.

You, the congregation, have supported The Shed with your time, money, and supplies. Our neighbors have used it often and at times have left things for others. Together we have seen a need and have helped fill the need. Thanks be to God for this wonderful ministry and blessing!

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## ***Faith Formation***

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### **Wednesday Faith Formation**

Join us for a nine-week study on Hospitality! We will explore what the Old and New Testaments say about this Biblical concept and how God is calling us into a deeper understanding and practice of one of our Core Values. Classes meet from 10:30- noon and will begin on March 12th. You can participate in person or on Zoom. Everyone is welcome! Contact Pastor Lori if you would like to reserve a book or if you have any questions about Faith Formation at St. Paul's.



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## ***Social Ministry***

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### **Grab and Go Has a New Look!**

The Living Well has had to revamp their Grab and Go program, and we are in the process of adjusting the way we participate in this ministry. All meals must now be prepared in a certified kitchen. St. Paul's is looking at doing some minor updates in order to become certified. In the meantime, we will be using the kitchen at the Presbyterian Church to prepare our meals. Beginning in March, we are switching from providing lunches on Fridays to supplying the dinner meal on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. We will be cooking one of the meals. We will supply the ingredients for the other meal, and volunteers from the Living Well will prepare it. Watch the bulletin board across from the church office for details on how you can participate! Thank you for your continued support for this ministry!

## Sharing Shed March 2025

Once again, thank you to all who help with The Sharing Shed by shopping for supplies, donating supplies, or keeping The Shed stocked! We are blessed by all to be a blessing to others. For the month of March, in addition to the needed supplies, the local hunger offering will be given to The Sharing Shed to continue supporting it as well. **Needed Items:** Paper products are always welcome: Paper towels, toilet paper; and Kleenex. Soups and canned pasta are welcomed also.

## Lutheran World Relief Kits

The Social Ministry Committee would like to assemble school, personal care, and baby kits once again this year to be sent to Lutheran World Relief. We are asking for your good will to sign up for items needed for school and personal care kits. Most of the baby kit supplies will be purchased with a grant from Thrivent. Check the sign-up sheets across from the office if you would like to help us out. Thanks!

## Hunger Offering for March

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me in.*

*Matthew 25:35*

Each month we collect an offering to help feed hungry people and help hurting communities in our county and around the world. Sixty percent of the offering is used to combat world hunger. Forty percent is given to local organizations to help them “feed” people either physically, emotionally or spiritually. This month, the local part of our hunger offering will be given to **The Sharing Shed**.



Your offering can be placed in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary or mailed directly to church. Remember to designate the amount you want to give on the hunger line of your envelope or write “Hunger Offering” on the memo line of your check.

Thank you for helping to care for our neighbors near and far!

## Grandma's Kitchen

We are going to participate in Grandma's Kitchen only once this year. On March 20 we will provide macaroni and cheese, cookies and apples for about 120 students. There will be a signup sheet for the food and also workers to serve food at the high school. If you have questions you may contact Jewel (315-719-8182) or Amy (315-759-0901). Thank you for any help you are able to give to Grandma's Kitchen.



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## *Worship*

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### March News from the Pews

**Sunday March 2, 2025**

Exodus 34:29-35

2 Corinthians 3: 12-4:2

**Transfiguration Sunday**

Luke 9:28-36

**Hymn of the Day:** Oh, Wonderous Image, Vision Fair ELW316

**Transfiguration Sunday** is the last Sunday in the church year before the Season of Lent which begins Ash Wednesday. On Transfiguration Sunday we “bury the Alleluias” not singing or saying “Alleluia” again until Easter. There will be other changes in the liturgy for that Sunday as well. We will begin our service with the Confession and Forgiveness rather than the Thanksgiving for Baptism. We will speak the Nicene Creed rather than the Apostles Creed and our Hymn of Praise will be ELW 311: *“Hail to the Lord's Anointed”*. The paraments are white for this day.

**March 5, 2025**

**Ash Wednesday 6:30 PM**

Traditional Ash Wednesday service with imposition of ashes

During Lent, we will use *“Restore in Us, O God”* (ELW 328) as our Hymn of Praise, while the Gospel Acclamation will come from Setting Four, *“Return to the Lord Your God”* found on page 151. The Offertory Hymn will be *“Create in Me A Clean Heart, O God”* (ELW 186). The *“Holy, Holy, Holy”* and *“Lamb of God”* sung during the Communion liturgy, will be found in Setting Four, page 153 and 154.

Something a bit different for Lent ..... rather than saying the Apostles' or Nicene Creed, we will be using an “Affirmation” before the Prayers of the People. Notice the

words and how familiar they are, just said a bit differently. We will sing ELW Hymn 746, written by Martin Luther, entitled "*Our Father, God in Heaven Above*" as our Lord's Prayer. Again, the words and the meaning haven't changed. We are singing our prayer rather than speaking it. You will notice that the paraments have gone from green to purple for Lent and that the side-wall banners have been removed. It is the thinking of the Worship and Music team that having these large banners down remains us of the starkness of the Lenten Season.

**Sunday March 9, 2025**

Psalm 91: 1-2; 9-16 Romans 10: 8b-13

**Hymn of the Day:** When We are Tested ACS 922

**Sunday March 16, 2025**

Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17-4:1

**Hymn of the Day:** Thy Holy Wings ELW 613

**Sunday March 23, 2025**

Psalm 63: 1-8 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

**Hymn of the Day:** Jesus Still Lead On ELW 624

**Sunday March 30, 2025**

Join together for Brunch Church

Psalm 32 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

**Hymn of the Day:** Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling ELW 608\*

Thank you for sharing your favorite hymns with the Worship and Music Team. You will see in your bulletin that an asterisk (\*) following a hymn, indicates a requested hymn. We hope you notice many of your favorites throughout our services this month! Blessings as we travel this Lenten Season's Path of Discipleship together.

**First Sunday in Lent**

Luke 4: 1-13

**Second Sunday in Lent**

Luke 13:31-35

**Third Sunday in Lent**

Luke 13:1-9

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**



## Worship Leadership

	<b>3/2</b>	<b>3/9</b>	<b>3/16</b>	<b>3/23</b>	<b>3/30</b>
<b>Assisting Ministers</b>	Elaine Gleason		Whitney Booth	Dorothy Oswald	Elaine Gleason
<b>Ushers (2)</b>	Terry and Sallie Jensen	Terry and Sallie Jensen	Terry and Sallie Jensen	Terry and Sallie Jensen	Terry and Sallie Jensen
<b>Greeters</b>	Michael Schultz	Michael Schultz	Michael Schultz	Michael Schultz	Michael Schultz
<b>Readers</b>		Adrienne Foster	Cathy Booth	Adrienne Foster	
<b>Altar Guild</b>					
<b>Sound Board</b>	Charlene Nielsen	Les Wood	Charlene Nielsen	Les Wood	Charlene Nielsen
<b>Computer</b>	Various Volunteers	Various Volunteers	Various Volunteers	Various Volunteers	Various Volunteers
<b>Counters</b>	John Dubbs and Ingrid Michael	Adrienne Foster and Les Wood	Dave Nielsen and Clem Nielsen	Ingrid Michael and Adrienne Foster	Wanda Wood and Clem Nielsen

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## *Lent*

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### Lent and Holy Week Services

Ash Wednesday	March 5	6:30 pm
Midweek Services	March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9	6:30 pm
Passion Sunday	April 13	10:00 am
Maundy Thursday	April 17	6:30 pm
Good Friday	April 18	6:30 pm
Easter Sunday	April 20	10:00 am

## **Midweek Lenten Services**

Join us on Wednesday evenings during Lent for a worship series called, *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*. Each week we will gather around the cross to explore what it means for us to abide at the foot of the cross, to cling to the rock of our salvation, to dwell in the house of the Lord, and to confess our sins and to receive God's forgiveness. Worship begins at 6:30 pm on March 12, 19, 26, April 2 and 9.

## **Lenten Devotional Materials**

Lenten devotional materials are available on the information table in the narthex. One is weekly study provided by ELCA World Hunger. The other is a daily study from Luther Seminary. Please consider making devotions a part of your Lenten journey this year.

## **Lenten Fasting and Feasting**

Fast from judging others;  
Feast on the Christ indwelling them.  
Fast from emphasis on differences;  
Feast on the unity of all life.  
Fast from apparent darkness;  
Feast on the reality of light.  
Fast from thoughts of illness;  
Feast on the healing power of God.  
Fast from words that pollute;  
Feast on phrases that purify.  
Fast from discontent;  
Feast on gratitude.  
Fast from anger;  
Feast on patience.  
Fast from pessimism;  
Feast on optimism.  
Fast from worry;  
Feast on divine order.  
Fast from complaining;  
Feast on appreciation.  
Fast from negatives;  
Feast on affirmatives.

Fast from unrelenting pressures;  
Feast on unceasing prayer.  
Fast from hostility;  
Feast on non-resistance.  
Fast from bitterness;  
Feast on forgiveness.  
Fast from self-concern;  
Feast on compassion for others.  
Fast from personal anxiety;  
Feast on eternal Truth.  
Fast from discouragement;  
Feast on hope.  
Fast from facts that depress;  
Feast on truths that uplift.  
Fast from lethargy;  
Feast on enthusiasm.  
Fast from suspicion;  
Feast on truth.  
Fast from thoughts that weaken;  
Feast on promises that inspire.  
Fast from shadows of sorrow;  
Feast on the sunlight of serenity.  
Fast from idle gossip;  
Feast on purposeful silence.  
Fast from problems that overwhelm;  
Feast on prayer that undergirds.  
—written by William Arthur Ward, 1921-1994.

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## ***Congregational Care***

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### **Winter Weather Updates**

When the weather is questionable or if a weather warning has been issued by the National Weather Service/Sherriff's Department, please check your email to see if in person worship has been cancelled and to access the Zoom link. If you



do not have an email address, you will receive a telephone call to inform you of the closure.

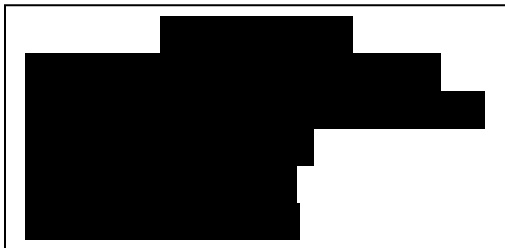
## “Shower” Each Other with Messages of Love



Each month, we will “shower” someone from St. Paul’s with messages of love. Please take a moment to send the person/s listed below a note of encouragement. May God use our communications to remind the recipient of God’s faithful presence and love.



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



### **Anniversaries**

No anniversaries are listed for March

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## ***Reminders***

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### **Prayer Requests in Public Places**

Prayer is an important part of our faith. It is one of the ways we support each other during times of illness, crisis and grief. This is a faithful and powerful practice. Our intentions are often in the best place. However, some people prefer to keep their situation private. If you would like to include someone on the prayer list in the bulletin, during worship or through an email, please ask for their permission to make it public. Thank you.

### **Office Hours for the Month of March**

Please check the weekly announcements for the office hours! [REDACTED]

**Don't forget to Spring Forward on Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**



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## ***Community Events***

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### **Community Prayer Service**

The next Community Prayer Service will be on Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:15 pm with a service on *Lent*.

## **AARP Taxaide**

Once again this tax season, AARP Taxaide volunteers will prepare and file tax returns in the Fellowship Hall. The program will run until Apr 15 on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays. Our hours will be 9 am to 4 pm on those days. You will notice strange cars in parking lot and different folks wandering in and out of our office. Taxaide gives thanks for use of St Paul's facilities; we do our best to stay out of the way and deconflict with other church groups.

If you wish to have a tax return done, please contact **Yates County Office for the Aging at 315.279.4321**. Leave a voice message, and the clerk will call back and schedule an appointment with you.

Any questions, please see Les Wood at St Paul's. Note: Les cannot schedule appointments.

## **Volunteer Want Ads**

### **Habitat for Humanity**

Provide lunch for the Saturday workers

Call [REDACTED]

### **The Living Well**

Various opportunities to support the programs that serve adults and children in need in our community.

Call [REDACTED]

### **Penn Yan Community Café**

Help prepare and serve meals to the community on the second and last Tuesday of every month.

Call [REDACTED]

### **Yates Christmas Program**

Provides a program to ensure that no child in Penn Yan and Dundee School Districts goes without during the holiday season. Donate items, help distribute items, bell ringing

Call [REDACTED]

# THE LIVING WELL'S 2025 LENT CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
5 Floss	6 Toothbrush	7 Toothpaste	8 Cleaning Supplies	9 Feminine Pads	10 Laundry Detergent	11 Tampons
12 Buyer's Choice	13 Diapers Size 5	14 Women's Deodorant	15 Garbage Bags	16 Liquid Hand Soap	17 Shaving Razors	18 Kid's Toothbrush
19 Men's 3-1 Wash	20 Buyer's Choice	21 Diapers Size 4	22 Women's Body Wash	23 Diapers Size 6	24 Buyer's Choice	25 Panty Liners
26 Sponges	27 Dish Detergent	28 Kid's 2:1 Shampoo	29 Quart Size Bags	30 Cleaning Supplies	31 Diapers Size 3	1 Baby Lotion
2 Kid's Toothpaste	3 Men's Deodorant	4 Nail Clippers	5 Buyer's Choice	6 Shaving Cream	7 Bar Soap	8 Diapers Size 7
9/16 Tissues/ Hair Brush	10/17 Lotion/ Shampoo	11/18 Baby Wipes/ Band-aids	12/19 Paper Towels/Soap	13/20 Snack/Quart Size Bags	14 Baby Shampoo	15 Toilet Paper

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# *A Letter from Pastor Kristin Engstrom*

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Hello and Salama dear siblings in Christ,

I pray you are doing well and shining with the light of Christ during this season of Epiphany.

It has been some time since my last newsletter sharing with you about my life and ministry as an ELCA Global Missionary. But, I am glad to finally share some big news with you, both here and in my newsletter: I have moved from Zambia in southern Africa to Madagascar, an island off the east coast of Madagascar. I actually moved to Madagascar one year ago this week! As you can imagine when one moves to a new country and begins a new call, the last year has been quite hectic yet full of interesting and challenging ministry.

You will find more information, photos, and news in my February 2025 Newsletter, which is attached to this email. The Newsletter is also available on [my blog](#). Please share the Newsletter with your congregation, on social media, and with anyone who might be interested.



**February 2025 Newsletter**

Big News!! I am now serving as an ELCA global missionary in Madagascar. To be honest, this is also somewhat old news, because I arrived ...

[alongwithpastorkristin.blogspot.com](http://alongwithpastorkristin.blogspot.com)

Also, if you would like to get to know all the ELCA Global Missionaries, the directory is now online here: [ELCA Global Missionaries 2024 Directory](#).

Finally, please keep our siblings in Christ in Madagascar in your prayers. We are in the midst of rainy season, which means most people are out in the fields, cultivating rice, casava, and other vegetable. Also pray for the Malagasy Lutheran Church Healthcare System, as they are one of the many life-giving programs in Madagascar who had received support from USAID that has now been cut. Thankfully, the ELCA continues to support this necessary healthcare system here in Madagascar.

Grace and peace and the love of God be with you,  
Pastor Kristin Engstrom  
ELCA global missionary in Madagascar

**Pastor Kristin Engstrom**  
ELCA Global Missionary with the Madagascar Lutheran Church  
ELCA Madagascar Country Representative and Young Adults in Global Mission Country Coordinator  
[kristin.engstrom@elca.org](mailto:kristin.engstrom@elca.org)

***\* A copy of Pastor Kristin's newsletter is located on the bulletin board across from the narthex doors.***



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# ***Six Opportunities to Embody Collaboration for Christ's Sake***

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*Join with local congregations and community partners to be inspired by local ministries, network with other attendees, learn together, and bring specific ideas back to your congregations!*

Who is invited?

- Everyone! We invite all lay and rostered folks to come together around collaboration, with other ELCA congregations, ecumenical and inter-faith partners, and area agencies.
- We would love to see teams from congregations, as well as rostered ministers, and lay voters for our online Synod Assembly.
- Do not feel restricted by your conference – all are welcome at any event!

What can I bring?

- Your insight and imagination!
- Non-perishable food and other pantry items for a local outreach ministry.

What is happening at each event?

- Fellowship
- Words from Bishop Miller
- Presentation from Local Collaborative Partner
- Open Forum on Collaborative Opportunities.
- Live-streamed Communion Service with Affirmations of Baptism and Vocation

Where and when are the events?

## **March**

Saturday, March 8, 1pm-4pm @ Good Shepherd, Glenville

**Saturday, March 15, 2pm-5pm @ Incarnate Word, Rochester**

Saturday, March 29, 9:30am-12:30pm @ St. Paul's, Liverpool

## **April**

Saturday, April 5, 10am-1pm @ Bethany, Elmira

Saturday, April 12, 9:30am-12:30pm, @ Zion, Frewsburg

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## *Thank You Notes*

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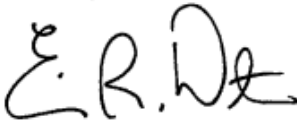
Dear Rev. Nickoloff,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$1,100 to support Keuka College's Alternative Spring Break Trip.

Rev. George Harvey Ball founded Keuka College in 1890 as a place to help prepare students to serve their communities and the world throughout their lives. Compassion and altruism are qualities Keuka College seeks to instill within students to this day. Your gift to Alternative Spring Break provides financial support for our students who wouldn't be able to afford this experience otherwise and it will provide them with the opportunity to serve others. I am privileged to see the direct impact your investment has.

Thank you again for investing in our students. It is greatly appreciated. We will do our best to honor the spirit in which your donation was given to make the world a better place.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. R. Detar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Eric Detar  
Keuka College Chaplain



Thank you for thinking of Matthew 25: Ministries and supporting our work with those in need.

By donating clean, empty plastic pill bottles, you are helping care for those in need and helping the environment by keeping plastic out of the landfill. Please note that as of 03/01/2023 we are requesting only clean, capped bottles that have been prepared for shipment.

Thank you for your support of this program, and thank you for caring for people in need worldwide.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jodi Archer".

Jodi Archer  
*Director of Program*

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF**



**NEWS FOR THE APRIL 2025 EPISTLE IS DUE MARCH 21<sup>st</sup>**