



St. Paul
Lutheran Church

February 2024

The Epistle

A Chance for Collaboration

WITNESSES AT THE CROSS



The season of Lent awakens in us the desire to reflect on the past year and to grow in faith as disciples in the year ahead. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14th.

This Lent, you have an opportunity to grow in faith with the greater

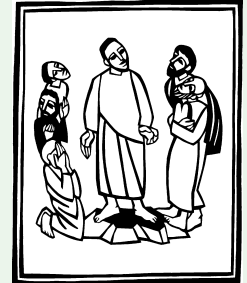
Church here in Cincinnati.

The pastors from Augsburg Lutheran, Trinity Lutheran in Mt. Healthy, Gloria Dei Lutheran, Hope Lutheran on Blue Rock, and St. Paul's will be visiting each congregation for mid-week Wednesday worship to preach a series called Witness at the Cross.

You don't have to travel anywhere except St. Paul's sanctuary. The pastors will come to you!

Each Wednesday during Lent at St. Paul's, we will worship with Holden Evening Prayer. Each week during the service,

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WELCA SPRING GATHERING AT ST. PAUL'S IN APRIL

Please see the flyer on page 3 regarding the WELCA spring gathering at St. Paul's in April! Women and men are invited to the Chalk Talk presentation at 11:30 on April 13th. It will be a very special devotion with art and meditation about new life in Christ! If you are interested in helping to serve or set up for the brunch, please contact Pastor Emily Beckering.

A Chance for Collaboration

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you'll hear a sermon from a different local ELCA pastor. We don't have the capacity at this time to livestream the Wednesday evening services, but Sunday mornings will still be livestreamed.

Come Wednesday nights at 7 pm to St. Paul's in person to hear the witness of the women at the cross, John the beloved disciple, the soldiers, the bystanders and scoffers, and the men who were crucified with Jesus. We pray you will be inspired and encouraged by their witnesses.

We are collaborating in this way because we believe in the mission of the Southern Ohio Synod: We Are Stronger and Better Together, Joining Jesus in the Restoration of the World. During Lent, we are collaborating in worship to preach and receive God's Word. In the future, we hope to explore what possibilities there are for us to collaborate in service and ministry.

This issue of the *Epistle* is full of ways we are collaborating with other congregations for worship, education, and service. We are the Body of Christ together!

This Lent will be a journey of deepening learning and an experience of the Holy Spirit shared among the greater church. By hearing the witness of those who were at the cross, may you be strengthened to share your own witness with the world.

In Christ,
Pastor Emily Beckering



WELCA Spring Gathering!

Southern Ohio Synod Cincinnati Conference

Our Cincinnati Conference 2024 Spring Gathering, hosted by St. Paul Lutheran Church, Reading, Saturday morning, April 13th is going to be conducted starting at 10:30 a.m. with a hospitality brunch and fellowship time.

At NOON a very special "chalk talk" will be presented by Elva Hurst of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Chalk is the medium she uses to express her ministry through art. Her program, entitled "Then Comes Spring" will be a time for reflection on the glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ at Easter as well as the joyful arrival of the Spring season in all its splendor with buds, blooms and new life!

It is the hope and prayer of all involved in planning this meeting you will invite friends and family members to join in the viewing of this special program at Noon and will find it especially meaningful.

Please post the enclosed flyer and place the insert in your Sunday bulletins to publicize this event within both your church community and the local community at large.

Families will appreciate Elva's witness through this art medium. This is 'her calling' as you will experience as she draws with music and narration accompanying her hand strokes.

The completed drawing will be 'gifted' to St. Paul's congregation as a thank you for hosting.



ST. PAUL ON STAGE

St. Paul’s own Nick and Nate Huitger are performing in a local production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

Joyce McDowell is organizing a group outing to attend a performance, possibly on March 10 so that the group could lunch together after worship and then attend the play. Please contact Joyce if you’re interested in joining!

COA Awareness Week Feb. 11-17



When caring adults are safe and available for children impacted by the disease of familial addiction, they can help stop the pain and isolation and help children embrace recovery. COA Awareness Week breaks the silence that engulfs and traps kids and teens living with parental addiction and offers the chance for children at risk to become children of promise.

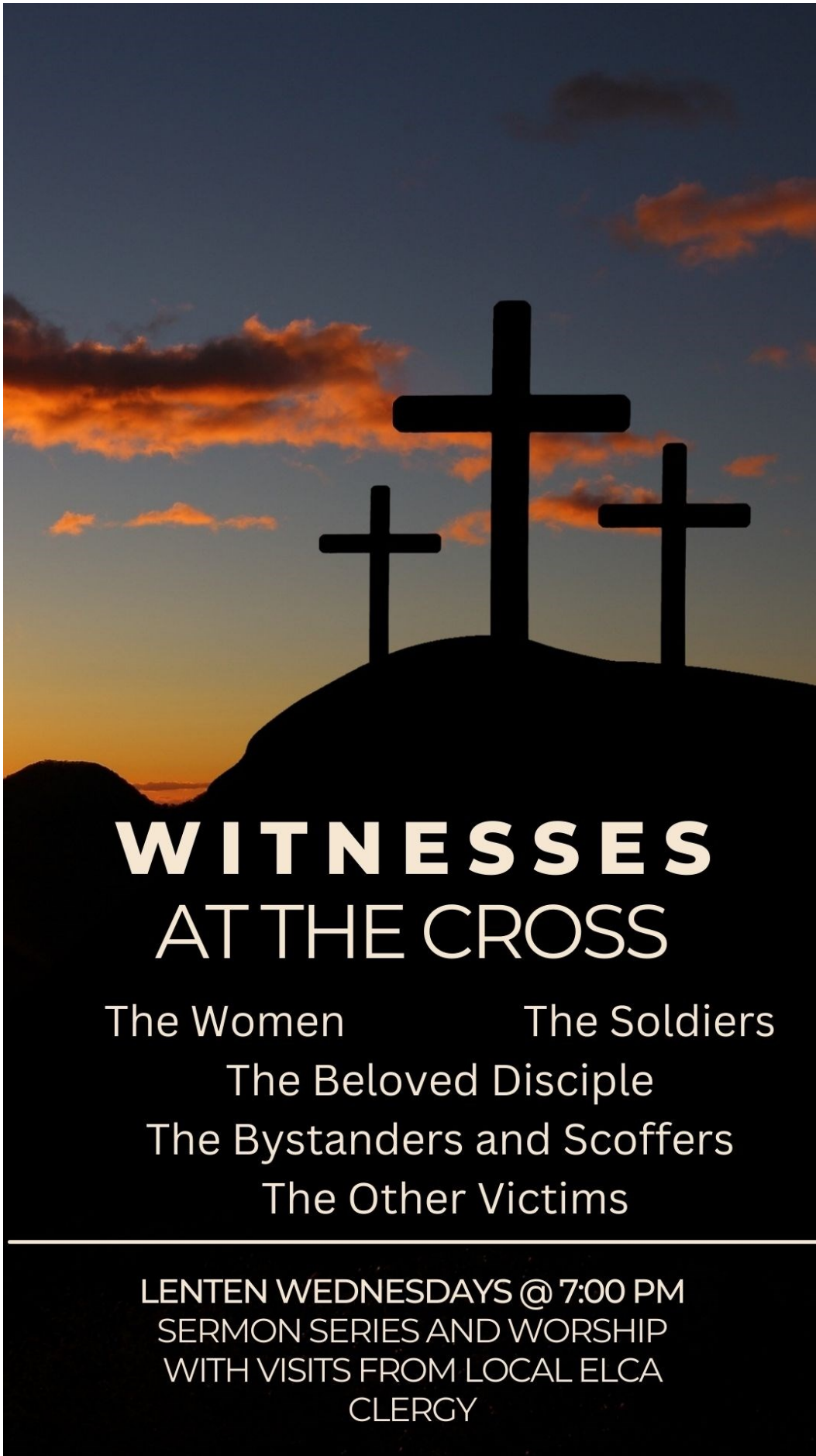
Valley Interfaith CRC Asks for Aid

Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center has been experiencing very high demand for services for several years in a row, and is asking for any help we can offer. Here are a few notes from them about their needs:

Volunteers - We need people who truly understand servant leadership. People who put the mission before self.

Money for Food - In lieu of donating food, if you donate cash, we can buy \$10 worth of food for every dollar given.

Refugee Asylum Assistance - If you would like to underwrite this - the cost is \$3,000 to help us serve 10 refugees with completing and filing asylum paperwork or a work visa.



WITNESSES AT THE CROSS

The Women The Soldiers
The Beloved Disciple
The Bystanders and Scoffers
The Other Victims

LENTEN WEDNESDAYS @ 7:00 PM
SERMON SERIES AND WORSHIP
WITH VISITS FROM LOCAL ELCA
CLERGY

HELP FOR LOCAL REFUGEES

Our sisters and brothers in Christ at St. John UCC are doing work with Senegalese refugees in Lockland. They are in need of radios and computers/laptops (for English classes), pots and pans, and personal care items. If you would like to serve the Lord by donating such items, then you can bring them to St. Paul's narthex where there will be a collection box, and we will pass them onto St. John UCC to share with those who are in need. Please see more info on page 4.

Council Corner

We rejoice in God's care and provision. St. Paul's did well financially during the month of December thanks to the generosity of members and worshippers and their year-end and Christmas offerings. In December, our income exceeded our expenses by \$11,000, and we gained an additional \$1,000 with our assets in the stock market. Thanks be to God! Our total deficit for year was only 7000 in 2023.

The Boy Scouts of America have not been meeting in our building since spring of 2023. The remainder of their monies was sent this month to their scout leader.

To maintain our AED, Council will check the device each month. The pads had expired, so we received new pads for the device.

We are excited to announce that St. Paul's will be the host for the 2024 WELCA Cincinnati Spring Gathering on Saturday, April 13. See page 3 for more details. If you would like to help set up, prepare and serve brunch, or clean up, please sign up in the narthex.

We prepared for the Annual Meeting and are excited to witness what God has done among us in 2023. During this last month, the committees have been work-

ing on their Annual Reports which you can look forward to reading at the Annual Meeting on January 28th to review all that God has done through this congregation in 2023. The Committees also have revised their committee descriptions and volunteer descriptions to guide and direct their work and as a resource to welcome new members into their ministries.

Council is very conscious of conserving our financial resources for the future. We discussed ideas and possibilities for raising additional funds beyond member contributions to support our ministries. If you have ideas for how we can generate additional resources, please contact a Council member. We would like to request committees to consider meeting on Sundays or on Zoom rather than in person during the week when possible especially during frigid winter months to conserve energy costs.

Our congregation was invited to participate in an ecumenical conference with congregations on the West Side of Cincinnati regarding Christian/Jewish Relations and Israel-Palestine Conflict. We are in communication with the coordi-

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Celebrations in February



- 1 William Harrison, Matthew Lawson,
Jim Miller
- 2 Kathy Crosby
- 8 Les Eckerle
- 10 Jeni Cathcart
- 11 Ron & Shirley Harbaugh

- 12 Joyce Spelman
- 13 Eric Bardes, Kyle Kreiner
- 15 Joe & Elain Heskamp
- 16 Shirley Lathrop
- 18 Kris Kreiner
- 19 Rachel Bronner
- 20 Penny Huber
- 21 Bryana Bronner
- 22 Diana Hawkins
- 24 Erika Ford, Jillian Ford
- 26 Beth Wernery

Support St. Paul at Kroger!

Did you know that St. Paul benefits from the Kroger Community Rewards Program? Just follow the directions below to increase your church offering at no cost to yourself!

One-time step: Link your Kroger Plus Card to St. Paul.

- Visit [kroger.com/account/communityrewards](https://www.kroger.com/account/communityrewards) and log in with your Kroger account. (Kroger customer service can help with this.)
- Search for “St. Paul Lutheran Church” or organization number TG880.
- Click the ENROLL button under St. Paul’s name & address.
- After this, each purchase with your Plus card will generate donations to St. Paul!

Unfortunately St. Paul no longer receives rewards from Amazon, as the Amazon Smile program has been discontinued.

Council Corner

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nating clergy to learn more about the content and goals of this conference and will share the details with the congregation for each to determine if they'd like to participate in this conference.

We brainstormed who might serve on the nominating committee this year. If you are asked this month, please prayerfully consider if you might serve in this capacity. If you would like to serve on the nominating committee to nominate Council candidates please contact Council President, Nancy Erbeck.

We reviewed and discussed some safety protocols. For the safety of the congregation when we gather on Sundays, the doors will be locked during Sunday School and again during worship, but the door will be monitored to welcome people who may arrive late. We also reviewed protocol for cancellations in the event of inclement weather.

In Christ,

St. Paul Church Council: Kathy Crosby, Nancy Erbeck, Nick Huitger, Chelsea King, Chet Laine, Linda Miller, Joy Niefield, Carole Replogle, Pastor Emily Beckering



Young adults from Gather Cincinnati met at St. Paul in January for worship, dinner, and fellowship. We rejoice to be partners & supporters of this group and their ministry!

St. Paul Lutheran Church

FH = fellowship hall

LOCATION KEY

S = sanctuary

N = narthex

L = library

US = upstairs

O = outside

February 2024

Mission Statement

Growing a Christian community where each is valued, accepted, and loved.

513-821-0987 | mail@stpaulreading.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Jan. 28 4 Epiphany 9 am Sunday School (ages 3-18) (US) 9 am Adult Forum (FH) 10:30 am Worship (S)	January 29	January 30	January 31 2:30 pm Bible Study (N/Z)	February 1 6 pm Confirmation Class (N)	February 2	February 3
4 5 Epiphany 9 am Sunday School (ages 3-18) (US) 9 am Adult Forum (FH) 10:30 am Worship (S)	5	6	7 2:30 pm Bible Study (N/Z)	8 6 pm Confirmation Class (N)	9	10 11:30 am Church re-served for cleaning
11 Transfiguration 9 am Intergenerational Sunday School (N) 10:30 am Worship (S)	12	13	14 Ash Wednesday 2:30 pm Bible Study (N/Z) 7 pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service (S)	15	16	17
18 Lent 1 9 am Sunday School (ages 3-18) (US) 9 am Adult Forum (FH) 10:30 am Worship (S)	19 7 pm Council Meeting (FH) **Epistle Articles Due**	20	21 2:30 pm Bible Study (N/Z) 7 pm Lenten Wednesday Service	22 6 pm Confirmation Class (N)	23	24 11:30 am Church re-served for cleaning
25 Lent 2 9 am Sunday School (ages 3-18) (US) 9 am Adult Forum (FH) 10:30 am Worship (S)	26	27	28 2:30 pm Bible Study (N/Z) 7 pm Lenten Wednesday Service (Rev. Grace Werzinske, Guest Preacher)	29	March 1	March 2

Our Life Together

To reach Pastor directly, please call the pastoral line at 513-760-5884.

If you have requests for the Prayer Chain, or to remove a person from the list, please contact the office at 513-821-0987 or mail@stpaulreading.org.

We pray for **Samantha Asbrock** (Marie Calhoun's friend); **Berkeley** (Carol Curless's great-grandson); **Jeannie Allen** (Faith Eckerle's friend); **Teresa Bell** (former member); **Stephen Black** (Kim Coulehan's nephew); **Nancy Boone** (Gary Gries' sister); **Brett** (Kings' step-nephew); **Pat Buck** (Hirts' friend); **Natalie Burroughs**; **Jodie Calhoun**; **Casey** (Cindy Sieckman's niece); **John Cathcart**; **Christy** (Terri DeAngelis' daughter); **Jeff Coldiron**; **Pat Coldiron**; **Sandy Cordes**; **Jen Crosby** (Kathy's daughter); **Kathy Curless**; **David** (Cindy Sieckman's cousin); **Rebecka DeLeon** (daughter of Holly Ford's co-worker); **Katie Demopoulos** (Diana Hawkins's niece); **Sara Eble** (Portmanns' friend); **Jane Erbeck**; **Nancy Erbeck**; **Larry Faulkner** (Freda's son); **Justin Feldman** (Bess Sturgill's father); **Cindy Flege**; **Lee Frank** (Barbara Moorhouse's niece's husband); **Darrell Frasure** (St. Paul neighbor); **Jeanne Fuller**; **Clara Garcia** (Cindy Mayhugh's sister); **Larry Getz** (Barbara Moorhouse's cousin); **Lena Gibson** (Pirrmanns' stepsister); **Nathaniel Gibson** (Les Eckerle's step-nephew); **Janie Grandy** (in-law of DeAngelis-Willet family); **Don Grau Jr.**; **Jim Hammerling** (Portmanns' son-in-law); **Ron Harbaugh**; **Chrissy Harris**; **Sandy Hatcher** (Linda Holt's sister); **Headley/**

Lawson family; **Elain Heskamp**; **Ed Hirt**; **Andrew Horton**; **Penny and Larry Huber**; **Ellen Hunter** (Jeni Cathcart's grandmother); **Kate** (granddaughter of Dennis King's friend); **Mike Keefe** (Millers' neighbor); **Ken and Kathy Keith** (Kris Keith's dad and stepmom); **Chelsea King**; **Dennis King**; **Jackie King**; **Janet King**; **Earl (Buddy) King** (Dennis's brother); **Marilyn Kline** (Cindy Sieckman's neighbor); **Loretta Kombrink** (Marilyn Portmann's aunt); **Tom and Mike Kozee and family** (friends of Faith Eckerle); **Kelsee Lainhart** (friend of Kings); **Nelson Langefeld**; **Yvonne Lowery** (St. Paul Players); **Brad Majewski**; **Carroll Mayhugh Sr.** (Carroll Mayhugh's father); **Cindy Mayhugh**; **Jessica Mayhugh & family** (Mayhughs' niece-in-law); **Samantha Mersch** (Mayhughs' daughter, Sarah Papin's sister); **Linda Miller**; **Mary Mills** (St. Paul Players); **Jessica Mink** (Donald Harris's cousin); **Barbara Moorhouse**; **Charlie Myers** (Coulehans' family friend); **Ann Ohr** (Barbara Moorhouse's cousin); **Eric Papin**; **LaCartha Pate** (Jeanne Wagner's friend); **Linda Perin** (Moorhouses' cousin); **Nick Pirrmann**; **Bob Price** (Kings' friend); **Barry Prince**; **Everett Prudhomme** (Beckerings' nephew); **Denise Rankin**; **Cynthia Reed**; **Dick Replogle** (Linda Miller's brother); **Christopher Rolfes** (Anne's son); **Mike and Judy Ryan** (friends of the Kings); **Sara and Evan** (Barbara Moorhouse's cousins); **Scott Schadel** (friend of McDowell's); **Shawn Schnetzer** (Sturgills' cousin); **Shannon and Dane** (friends of Riddle family); **Knox Shepherd** (grandson of Pr. Vicki Garber); **Kate Sheridan** (Kings' family friend); **Kim Sieckman**; **Dave Speed** (Hirts'

Our Life Together

friend); **Crosley Spelman** (Spelmans' grandson); **Kathy Spelman and family** (Joyce's sister-in-law); **Michael Steele** (Mayhughs' nephew); **Frank Sturgill** (Jim's dad); **Geri Toland** (Carole Replogle's neighbor); **Sharon Touchton** (Portmanns' friend); **Lish Trasser** (friend of DeAngelis-Willet family); **Treasure** (Les Eckerle's cousin); **Ralph Turner** (friend of Dennis King); **Jeanne Wagner**; **Melinda Wakefield** (Sherry Bronner's friend); **Pr. George Wilch**; **Leslie Willet**; **Kate Wollenburg and family**; **Judy Young** (Janet King's sister); **Mike Zecchini** (Betschs' brother-in-law); **Barb Zeh** (Jeni Cathcart's mom).

We pray for those with ongoing health concerns who are unable to come to church every week: **Shirley Lathrop, Barbara Moorhouse.**

We pray for our armed forces members: **Graham Barton** (Fords' neighbor); **Paul Cordes** (Elinor Schieman's grandson); **Victoria Derry** (Elinor Schieman's great-granddaughter); **Jared Forst** (Loretta's grandson); **Beau Glenn** (Karen Koehl's son-in-law); **Kylie Hahn** (Gretta Hahn's granddaughter); **Donald Hosea** (Karen Koehl's son); **Samuel McLoughlin** (friend of Cindy Sieckman); **Scott Minton** (Becky Betsch's brother); **Jobeth Ramirez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Joshua Rodriguez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Trent Schwegman** (cousin to the Erbecks and Fords); **Dustin Silvey**; **Alex Wisecup** (son of Nadine and Barry Wisecup).

February Ministry Schedule

Date	Feast/Fast	Assisting Minister	Reader	Livestreamer
Feb. 4	5 Epiphany	Cindy Mayhugh	Kathy Crosby	Chet Laine
Feb. 11	Transfiguration	Nancy Erbeck	Chet Laine	Ellie Lammers
Feb. 14 (7 pm)	Ash Weds.	Addy Kruse	TBA	Carroll Mayhugh
Feb. 18	Lent 1	Chet Laine	Kathy Hirt	Noah Moorhouse
Feb. 21 (7 pm)	Lenten Wednesday	Carroll Mayhugh	TBA	
Feb. 25	Lent 2	Cindy Mayhugh	TBA	Becky Betsch

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

St. Paul
Lutheran Church

*Mission
Statement:*

Growing a Christian
community where
each is valued, ac-
cepted, and loved.



Wednesday, Feb. 14
7:00 PM

St. Paul
Lutheran Church

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Reading, OH 45215
Phone: 513-821-0987
E-mail:
mail@stpaulreading.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

