

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA



April 2024

## The Church Door

### Prayer Shawl Ministry From the Archives

In September we did a prayer shawl blessing. The purpose of the blessing is to involve our congregation in the prayer shawl ministry. It is a reminder to share them with others. Anyone can pick up a shawl to give to someone in need. Usually they are given for sickness, mourning, etc. But they can also be used for good times & celebrations. An example of this is Pastor Leif passes out a shawl Afghan at weddings. These are made specifically for that purpose. Some shawls are small, some larger. Some can be used for baby's birth and/or baptism. They can be used as a show of friendship, or birthday etc. They are all made to be given out and not to collect dust on a shelf. If you have a friend who has a friend in need of a shawl,

give them one. We ask that you record the date, number, and name in the book. We keep track of how many shawls have been given out. One number keeps track of how many that have been given since the ministry began in 2003. The other keeps a count for the year. When a shawl is completed, it is put in the doors of the credenza in the fellowship hall. When they are blessed, they are put in a bag with a card, a blessing, care instructions, a prayer square with a tag, and a folder explaining our prayer shawl ministry, then placed on the shelves at the north end of the fellowship hall.

Shawls are made with multiples of three stitches. This is because we believe in the trinity. Those who knit or crochet can follow the very basic pattern or more elaborate ones depending on skill level or the need to do



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## From The Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

Looking back at how I used to study both for sermon preparation and religious education, I'm amazed at how far technology has taken us. When I began serving a parish in the last century, my study tools were just about identical to the ones my dad used (he was a pastor from a 1960's vintage). The denomination's publishing house would put together commentaries that covered the readings for each Sunday. And, there were the larger commentaries that looked at the various books of the Bible. These were the standard tools for preparation, and there are still versions of them today. Scholars

continue to produce, refine, and update the exegesis of the ancient texts.

But, with digital access, a new day has dawned. The publishing house has adapted to the new reality, but one's reach to other sources has exploded. As we started the new liturgical year of Mark's Gospel, I came across a treatment of the book I found interesting.

Biblical scholar Ched Myers called the Transfiguration Sunday text one of the three "pillars" of Mark's Gospel. These three revelatory events—Mark's baptism of Jesus, transfiguration of Jesus, and crucifixion of Jesus—are foundational for Mark's way of understanding how "the gospel of Jesus Christ" (Mark 1:1) relates to Jesus' own preaching of the "gospel of God" (Mark 1:14) in announcing God's reign. In short, Jesus **is** the gospel, yet that gospel has as its horizon **God's purposes in the advent of God's reign**. We begin by noting Myers' three pillars and their parallel elements:<sup>1</sup>

### **BAPTISM (1:9–11)**

Heavens rent

Dove descends

Voice from heaven

"You are my Son, beloved"

John the Baptist as Elijah

### **TRANSFIGURATION (9:2–9)**

Garments turn white

Cloud descends

Voice from cloud

"This is my Son, beloved"

Moses appears with Elijah

### **CRUCIFIXION (15:33–39)**

Sanctuary veil rent

Darkness spreads

Jesus' great voice

"Truly this man was Son of God"

"Is he calling Elijah?"

These three events in Mark's short Gospel show God breaking into the world through Jesus. Through him, the barriers between God and creation are removed.

Peace and Joy,  
Pastor Leif



*What event will we be preparing for?*

## Legion Ville Safety Summer Camp

The American Legion organized the first Summer Safety Camp in 1956. Its purpose was to train young people in correct School Patrol procedures. Since then, the program has expanded to include safety classes, swimming safety, canoeing, and first aid. The camp is conducted by MN Highway Safety Patrol public information officers. It's the only camp of its kind in the country. Many campers are third generation campers and their parents and grandparents still talk about their experience. So, if you would like to see a young person share the fun of camp, learn valuable lessons and meet new friends, it can be done with a contribution to the American Legion, their school, or an individual donation.

The camp is located on North Long Lake, Brainerd. Campers must be between 9 and 13. Classes are from Sunday – Friday, beginning the second week of June, except for July 4<sup>th</sup> week. The cost for an individual is \$500.00. To register , call 651-291-1800, or email at [mnlegionville@gmail.com](mailto:mnlegionville@gmail.com)

Submitted by Sharon Schwegel  
Mission Interpreter

## April Birthdays

Bev Wignes

Sue Falk

Loralee Torkelson

Marilyn Hultgren



## WELCA Minutes

The Women of the ELCA met March 14, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.

There were 6 ladies present

We opened with the Statement of Purpose and our Mission Statement.

Secretary's Report: M/S/P

Treasurers Report: M/S/P

Quilts: continuing to complete about one quilt each week. Please consider joining in this ministry – it's a great time of fellowship with coffee at 10:00. Four quilts were donated for the Bingo event at the Hub.

Prayer Shawls: Our dedicated members continue to knit and crochet shawls which are then blessed and given to anyone in need of prayer. Will schedule a blessing of the shawls event for late spring.

### Old Business:

Deloris Resen has offered to head up the Easter Breakfast this year. She plans to serve Quiche, juice, and fruit. M/S/P to have WELCA pay for expense.

Adult/Teen Challenge center for women in Brainerd has reached capacity for clients. They are asking for underwear. Will accept used in good condition. Sharon Schwegel is in contact with them – if you have questions.

Diane and Rick Zaske will complete assembly of school kits for the convention.

M/S/P to gratefully accept the donation of a 75" x 81" quilt titled "Paw Prints in the Fall" for our Country Fair quilt raffle. The kit and fabric were donated to St. Paul's by Sue Sanders and Ruth Bygness donated her time to complete the quilt and had it machine quilted. Our thanks to them both!

### New Business:

Summer Convention will be held this year at Zion in Grand Rapids. Early bird registration must be postmarked by May 17<sup>th</sup>. Print outs of the registration form are available in the narthex. The registration cost is covered by the Trust Fund. Our thanks to them!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Laura Ristow, Acting Secretary

*You Created my inmost self, Knit me together in my mother's womb. For so many marvels I Thank you; a wonder am I, and all your works are wonders.*

*Psalm 139: 13-14*

## Ministry of Prayer Shawls (archives)

The Prayer Shawl Ministry was begun in 1998 by two seminary students, Janet Bristow, and Victoria Galo for their home visits, and has spread across the nation's churches like the waters from Noah's flood! A Prayer shawl is intended to be a reminder of God's ever-present love and healing power. Prayers of healing, hope, comfort, and love are stitched into the shawls by each individual stitcher, and by all when we are together. Our group started in January of 2003 with 8 eager stitchers, with others having joined us along the way. We have become "fairly accomplished" at crocheting or knitting and have given out 1051 shawls. These have been given to members of our congregation and others we have become aware of who needed prayers and caring. There have also been some wedding, baptismal, baby, and benefit Afghan shawls given. This ministry shares in the happy times as well as hurting & healing times.



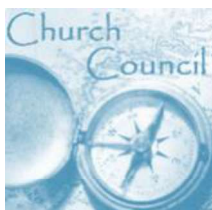
## Prayer shawls cont. from pg.1

something different. Most shawl makers say a prayer when they start each session. Some a prayer when they end each session. Some say word prayers while stitching. We no longer meet at the church each week to stitch. However, if you crochet or knit you are welcome to pick up a shawl packet, and yarn to make a shawl. Ask anyone who is in the prayer shawl ministry, ask any question you may have. If you don't stitch, but would like to learn, someone will teach you. As a personal touch I share this with all of you. I am a knitter and I need to knit. It is a gift that God gave me. I used to knit things and Rich would

ask me who it was for? Most of the time there was no person or destination in mind so they would just go on a shelf in the closet! At some point I would figure out a place to take them. Then the ministry was introduced at St. Paul's. I joined and finally had something to do with my projects. Rich was pleased because they left the house. Before, I mentioned one-word prayers. Knowing that God knows what I mean, we use three words, ex: Father, Son, Holy Spirit or Faith, Hope, Love; healing, patience, health; comfort strength, courage' or other appropriate words. We pray that the receiver will feel God's



*Blessing the Shawls*



# Church Council

Meeting minutes

## **ST. PAUL'S CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

March 20, 2024 - Fellowship Hall and Zoom

Present: Pastor Leif, Ron Wedin, Laura Ristow, Russ Torkelson, Alice Knowles, Chuck Forsgren, Shirley Johnson, Steve Hoopman, and Tonia Kahler

Absent: None

Council President Chuck Forsgren convened the meeting at 09:02 a.m.

Devotions: Tonia Kahler

President's Opening Prayer

Mission Statement: "Proclaiming and serving Christ in the Heartland and beyond"

**Additions to Agenda** – Survey questions, snow removal, siding update.

**Secretary's Minutes** – MSP to accept as printed.

**Treasurer's Report** – MSP to accept as printed.

**Pastor's Report** – Final Lenten service to be held at UCC on 3/20/24. Holy Week services to be hosted by UCC on Maundy Thursday and St. Paul's on Good Friday. Pastor to work with the Outreach Committee to purchase personalized (St. Paul's) pens which will be included in the Welcome/Visitor gift.

### **Committee Reports:**

Property Report – There was no meeting in March. The siding project began with the furring strips having been installed, waiting for the siding to arrive to complete the project.

Tech team report – included in the newsletter.

WELCA report – included in the newsletter.

### **Old and Ongoing Business:**

1. Membership Survey – tabled until Spring Retreat in May. Continue to brainstorm

questions to be included on the survey.

2. New pictorial directory to be created using Instant Church Directory. A decision was made that we will utilize the Standard version of the program/software. Tabled until Spring Retreat in May.
3. Ron Wedin continues to work on updating the privacy policy.
4. The Council's Spring Retreat and Potluck will be held on Wednesday May 15<sup>th</sup> at the home of Shirley Johnson beginning at 10:00 a.m.

### **New Business:**

1. Pastor to work on documenting the discretionary spending procedure.
2. Russ to update the Compassion Fund procedure.
3. God's Work our Hands will be on Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup>.

Devotions for next meeting – Alice Knowles

Next Council Meeting Date – April 17, 2024

Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 09:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tonia Kahler, Council Secretary

# Property Committee

Meeting minutes

Tech Report



## Tech Report 3/15/24

1. If you watched the Lenten services on YouTube or Facebook you may have noticed that we used UCC's Stream Yard, this allows us to stream on all 4 church Facebook and YouTube feeds. We are learning and I think the quality has improved.
2. No plans to change any hardware at this time.
3. Mike is still willing to work on setting up appointments with council members to get Microsoft 365 set up on their home computers. This includes explaining the software, and how to operate it.

Many Thanks to Mike, Char, Tammy, Tim, Chad, and Alice for all your efforts!

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions please don't hesitate to contact me. Chuck Forsgren 402-525-1127

***No Property Committee  
Meeting in March.  
No Minutes available***

## Prayer Shawls cont. from pg. 5

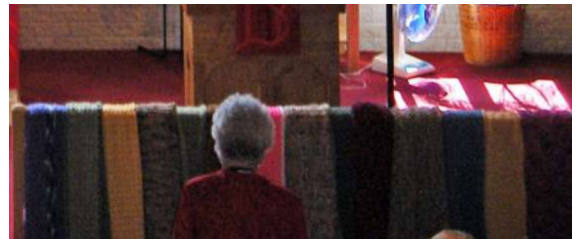
presence, and He is there during their struggle.

When I started doing Prayer shawls, I expected to be able to knit and have a place for each project to go. What happens is each time a prayer shawl is given, the receiver, the giver and the maker are all blessed. When Prayer Shawl Ministries receives a Thank you, so often it says, how did you know those were my favorite colors? I can feel the warmth of prayer and God's hands when I use it. When one is picked out, it is God

who selects the right shawl for the right person. I believe all of us who do this project feel the same way when we share the gift of this ministry.

Shawls are not sold; we give them with love and care. We also give shawls to each Christmas family the church sponsors. Join us with this ministry in any way you choose. Don't leave them on the shelf.

Marlys Johnson



St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA

Our Congregation is centered upon the person of Jesus Christ our Lord, Head of the Church and of this congregation. As members of Christ's Church, we seek to be His disciples as we serve each other, members of our community, and His Church throughout the world.

"Proclaiming and Serving Christ in the Heartland and beyond"

## Praying with a Prayer Shawl (Paragraphs from insert)

A prayer shawl is intended to be a reminder of God's ever present love which is as near to you as Your own body is to your spirit. It is a Gift for every time and every occasion-joyful or sorrowful, for every season and circumstance of life-chosen or unchosen, when you are weeping or when you are celebrating.

Wear it in times of private prayer. Let it rest on your shoulders as you work or play or read or rest. Wear it to worship. Wear it whenever you are drawn to prayer or when you have no interest in prayer but would like to be reminded of God's living presence and care.

Invite the Holy Spirit to help you pray. A reading from Scripture may begin your prayer. Let your prayer of worship and your prayers for loved ones, for the world, and for yourself flow naturally in silence or out loud in writing or singing or drawing.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

