



St. Paul Lutheran Church

March 2020

# The Epistle



We seek to be stronger and more vibrant in living and proclaiming the Gospel in our community and throughout Southern Ohio. We seek to become a vital presence of Jesus to our neighbors.

As the initiatives of the *Thrive!* Campaign are launched, we will be among those to benefit. The campaign is designed to support congregations across the region, including ourselves. It will be our leaders who can benefit from the additional training, our congregation will become stronger and it will be in Jesus' name and by our hands that new ministries are launched to reach new people. As we support Thrive! we support ourselves and invest in our own future as well as across the synod territory.

The *Thrive!* Campaign's five goals:

- Equipping Lay Leaders
- Raising up Leaders for Smaller Congregations
- Strengthening Rostered Ministers
- Launching New Congregations and Reaching New People
- Enhancing Worship Practices

*(Continued on page 2)*



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Online Giving..... 3  
 Steel Magnolias .....4  
 OWLS.....4  
 Lenten Dinners .....5  
 Celebrations .....5  
 Prayers .....10  
 Schedule .....11



## VALLEY INTER-FAITH ITEM OF THE MONTH

The donation items for Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center this month are **laundry detergent and dryer sheets.**

*Report from previous months:* In January you gave **76 toothbrushes, 58 tubes of toothpaste, and 10 cans of fruit.** The cold weather clothing drive continued, and you collected an additional **8 pairs of gloves, 1 scarf, 4 hats, and 12 pairs of socks.**

## THRIVE!

*(Continued from page 1)*

The *Thrive!* Campaign is not waiting until it is complete to launch initiatives. Already, congregations are involved in learning new stewardship practice and each has experienced significant growth. Council presidents are receiving training to be more effective.

The need is critical because our world needs to know the Good News of Jesus. Therefore, it is critical that we complete the campaign over the next three years. That is why our congregation has accepted a basic goal of \$10,950.00 and a challenge goal of \$21,900.00 toward this effort and why we are asking every member to respond generously in helping us reach the goal. You are encouraged to consider a gift monthly for the next three years.

You will soon have an opportunity to join in this effort by making your commitment to the campaign. We will be seeking your response on Sunday, March 22. Please prayerfully consider your response. You may make a pledge of a single payment, or you can use our new arrangement with Vanco Payment Services to set up smaller recurring payments over a period of up to 3 years (36 months). With Vanco Payments Systems you can make your donation as direct withdrawal from your bank account, use a credit card or a debit card. The chart below shows how a small amount of money on a recurring basis can grow into a significant donation.

Carroll Mayhugh

Amount per Week	Amount per Month	Amount per Year	3-Year Total
\$32.00	\$138.00	\$1,667.00	\$5000.00
\$23.00	\$100.00	\$1,200.00	\$3,600.00
\$12.00	\$50.00	\$600.00	\$1,800.00
\$6.50	\$28.00	\$336.00	\$1,000.00
\$3.85	\$17.00	\$200.00	\$600.00

## Online Giving Makes Generosity Easier



Are you someone who pays for everything with cash or are you more likely to pull out a card or swipe your finger on a phone application? Though

there are some of us who continue the practice of dividing our month's expenses into envelopes of cash to maintain a budget, the majority of us and the majority of people in the United States use other forms of payments more frequently. There are patterns among generations; millennials and those younger, for example, seldom ever carry cash.

We will still provide envelopes for those who wish to give their offering through checks or cash. No one will be required to use the online giving system—you may continue giving in whatever way is easiest for you. **In order to make financial stewardship more accessible for all members and visitors of St. Paul's we are expanding our partnership with Vanco.** Though we have used Vanco's services for more than 20 years for ACH giving (offering is automatically withdrawn from a checking account), we will now be able to accept offerings and donations through mobile phone app and on our website via GivePlus. For instructions on how to use the app or how to give through St. Paul's website, see the how-to diagrams on p. 8 and 9 of this issue of the Epistle.

Expanding our partnership with Vanco to provide for electronic giving allows us to accomplish several goals:

- Increase support for our mission and ministry at St. Paul's by providing more mediums through which to give
- Tend to the financial practices of younger generations by making electronic giving easy
- Amplify our ability to fund missional endeavors through revenue gained from St. Paul Players production ticket sales by being able to accept card payments at the door and online

We hope that Vanco GivePlus will remove some of the barriers to generosity that we have experienced: for example, visitors who want to give an offering but don't carry cash, or people who want to see one of the St. Paul Players' plays,

*(Continued on page 4)*



### EASTER CANDY NEEDED

The Evangelism Committee asks for your help with providing candy for our Community Easter Egg Hunt (April 4) as well as the egg hunt after church on Easter Sunday. Please bring in individually wrapped candies (no chocolate, please) and leave them in the basket in the narthex.

We will be filling plastic eggs with the candy on March 29 after worship.



**OWLS LUNCH & CRAFTING  
MARCH 14**

Saturday, March 14: Another Fun Craft Day! Meet at the church at 11:30 and we will go to Lucy's for lunch. If you prefer, meet us at Lucy's at 11:30. We will return to the church library by 12:30 to work on the wonderful craft that Doris and Chrissy have arranged for us. Please sign the OWLS sheet on the narthex pillar so we have an idea how many will be joining us.

# Steel Magnolias

By Robert Harling



Presented by  
**St. Paul Players**  
**March 6th - 15th 2020**

## Dinner & Stage Show

Friday, March 6th & 13th      Dinner at 7:00pm    Show at 8:00pm  
Saturday, March 7th & 14th    Dinner at 7:00pm    Show at 8:00pm  
Sunday, March 15th            Lunch at 1:00pm    Show at 2:00pm

106 Maple St.  
Reading, OH 45215



Parking & Entrance - 121 Willow St.

(513) 426-6504  
stpaulplayers@gmail.com  
www.stpaulplayers.com

Pay at the door with Cash/Check/Credit Card/Debit Card

## Online Giving Makes Generosity Easier

*(Continued from page 3)*

but discover that they can't buy tickets since they don't have cash or check on hand. Even more so, these new features will allow us to support the mission of this congregation by making it possible in more ways for more people to respond to Jesus' call to follow him. Think of this change as taking one step toward following Jesus into the 21st century.

In Christ, Pastor Emily Beckering

Each Wednesday in Lent, we will gather for a themed potluck dinner and brief worship service. Please see the list below for each week's dinner theme and worship liturgy.

## Lenten Dinners and Services

Date	Dinner Theme	Worship Service
March 4	Family Favorites	SPP: <i>Steel Magnolias</i>
March 11	Southern Fare	Compline
March 18	Appetizers	Healing
March 25	Breakfast	Vespers
April 1	International	Holden Evening Prayer

**DINNER AT 6 PM | WORSHIP AT 7 PM**

## Celebrations in March



- |    |   |           |   |
|----|---|-----------|---|
| 3  | Emily Nutt                                  | 17        | Samara Bronner, Patrick Cathcart, Terri DeAngelis |
| 5  | Leah Miller, Katie Sturgill, Maryhelen West | <b>18</b> | <b>Rick &amp; Britt Hedges</b>                    |
| 11 | Maddie Lohmeier                             | 21        | Sean Coulehan, Drew Harbaugh                      |
| 15 | Joyce McDowell                              | 22        | Shirley Harbaugh, Faith Pirmann                   |
| 16 | Adam Winkle                                 | 23        | Molly McDowell                                    |
|    |   | 24        | Ed Hirt   |
|    |   | 25        | Liam Cathcart, Karen Koehl, Maggie McDowell       |
|    |   | 30        | Pr. Emily Beckering, Kathy Hirt                   |

## LENTEN GIFTS

This Lent, we will be sharing some of what God has given us with our sisters and brothers in Christ of Vida Eterna Iglesia, an ELCA congregation that worships at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in West Chester. Our mid-week Wednesday night offerings will be shared with this congregation; Good Shepherd, Kenwood, will match our offerings dollar for dollar. This will be part of our Lenten discipline this year in order to respond to Jesus' call and prayer for unity among all believers in John 17. This practice also furthers our own mission of sharing our gifts so that others know Jesus; our sisters and brothers in Christ at Vida Eterna Iglesia are Spanish-speaking and so can reach people in the Cincinnati area whom we can't reach and introduce them to Jesus.

## First Shift at Matthew 25: Ministries Fun and Productive



Matthew 25: Ministries had the busiest group-volunteer Saturday that they have seen in a long time on February 22, with at least 200 volunteers from 9 am - 1 pm . When we left there was a line of walk-ins waiting to check out at the door. Many hands make light work! With fifteen of us we were able to tape and pack at least 5 boxes of deodorant to be shipped either

locally, nationwide, or abroad. Great job!

If you were unable to make it to February's volunteer opportunity, but wish to help another time than mark your calendars for April 25, 2020 from 11-1. This will be ongoing throughout the year, every other month on the 4th Saturday from 11 am - 1 pm. Chairs are available at some stations. When I confirm our number of people volunteering to them, they ask how many might need a chair and can place us at those stations. I know some of you have asked that question, so I hope that helps ease possible concerns for those to help in the future.

Chelsea King

## Stewardship Opportunities in March

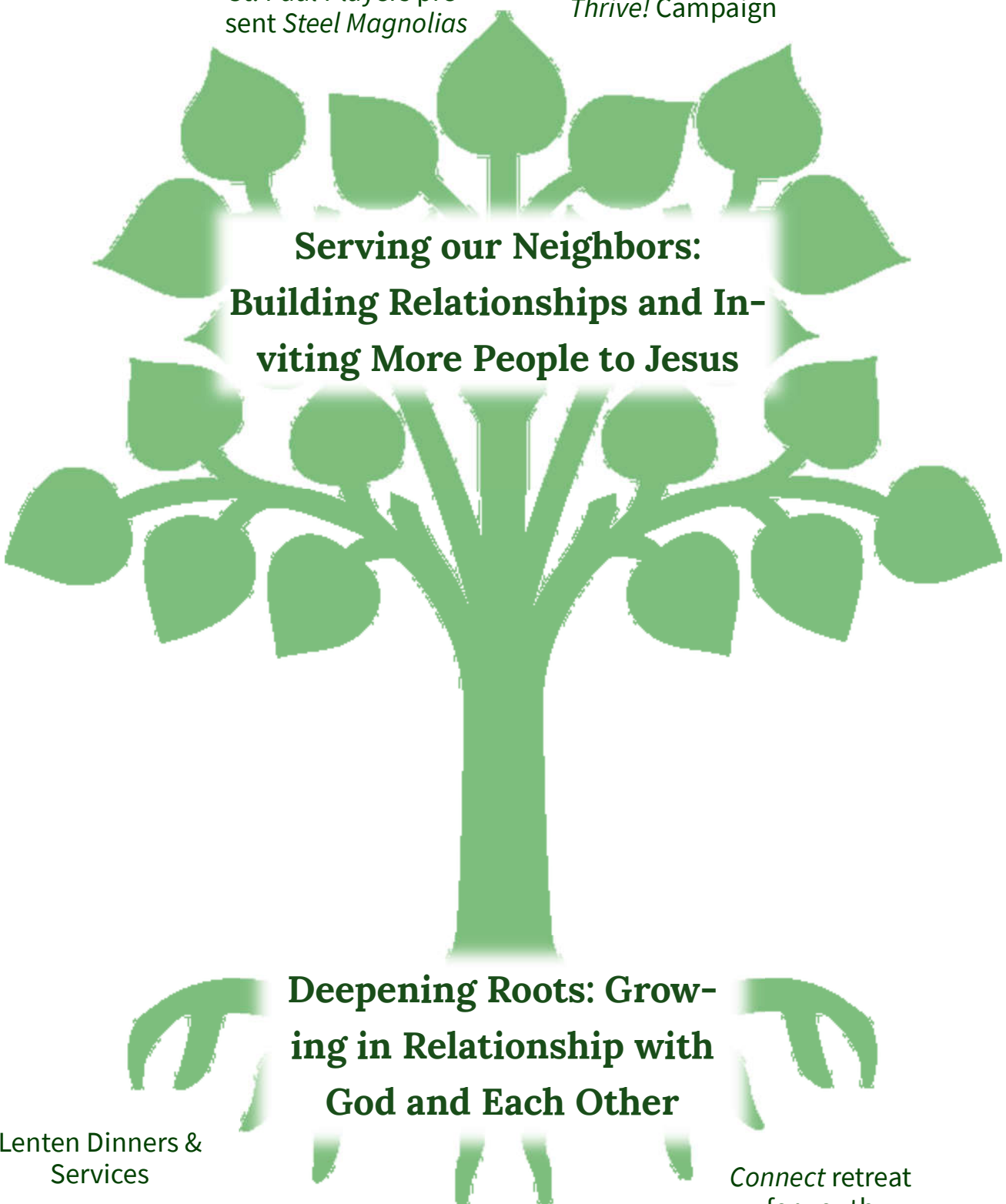
*During Lent, we are reminded that stewardship is returning to the Lord our God by putting Christ at the center of every aspect of our lives.*

<b>SPIRITUAL GIFTS and COMMUNITY</b>	<b>MIND</b>	<b>SPIRIT/FAITH</b>	<b>RELATIONSHIPS</b>
Welcome the community with hospitality as the St. Paul Players offer their talents to put on the production of <i>Steel Magnolias</i> .	Challenge your mind and live into your convictions by participating in the Adult Forums on the ELCA social statements.	Come to the Lenten midweek worship services every Wednesday at 7 pm to grow in faith.	Come to the Lenten midweek potluck suppers to grow in friendship with one another.
<b>FINANCES</b>	<b>NEIGHBOR</b>	<b>CHURCH</b>	<b>FEATURED MINISTRY: PRAYER</b>
Prayerfully consider contributing to the <i>Thrive!</i> Campaign in order to care for God's church with the money God has given you.	Donate candy (not chocolate) for the Evangelism Committee to use at the community Easter Egg Hunt to tell our neighbors about Jesus!	Support our young adults at the synod's <i>Connect Retreat</i> so that they can grow in faith with their peers.	Pray for Barry Prince as he retires, and for the Music Director Search Committee as they seek to discern God's will for this congregation.

# Sowing, Reaping, Rebirth, and Joy This Month

St. Paul Players present *Steel Magnolias*

*Thrive!* Campaign



**Serving our Neighbors:  
Building Relationships and In-  
viting More People to Jesus**

**Deepening Roots: Grow-  
ing in Relationship with  
God and Each Other**

Lenten Dinners &  
Services

OWLS Lunch and  
Crafting

The Gathering

*Connect* retreat  
for youth

# GivePlus How-To: On Our Website

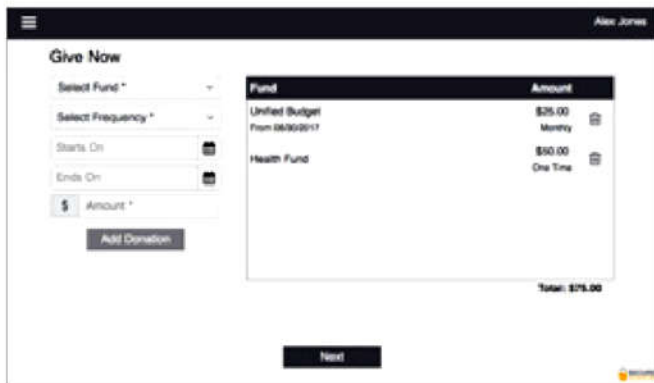
This is a brief explanation of how to make online donations to St. Paul through our website or in the GivePlus mobile app. Please visit [stpaulreading.org/online-giving/](http://stpaulreading.org/online-giving/) to try it! Or, to get the mobile app, visit the Apple App Store or Google Play Store and search for “GivePlus Church”.

Please call the office if you have any questions. Jane Owen is happy to give you a tour of the online giving process on the office computer, if you stop by during office hours.

## 1. Select fund(s) and amount

Donors select a fund, enter the amount and choose a frequency if they have created an Give+ account.

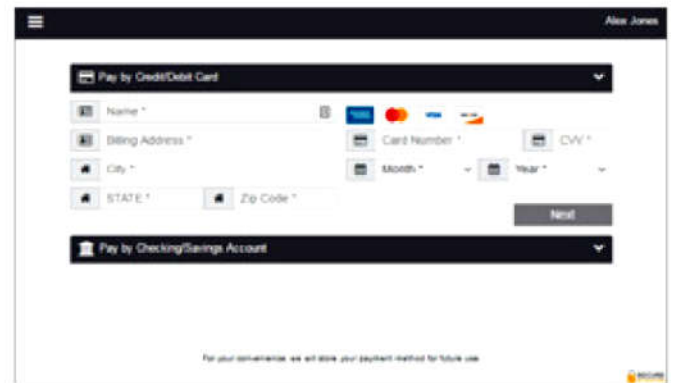
**Note:** All donors can give to multiple funds in one transaction. Account holders can choose start dates for gifts and payments.



## 2. Enter payment method

Donors enter their debit/credit card information or choose to pay with their checking or savings account.

**Note:** Give+ account holders can store this information for future use.



## 3. Complete donation

Donors review their summary and then select *Donate Now* to complete their donation(s).



## 4. Give+ account features

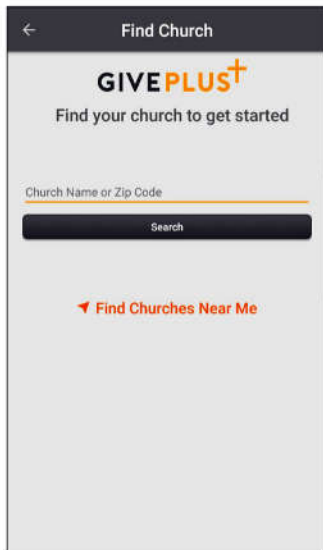
When logged into their Give+ account, donors can review giving history, manage recurring donations or edit stored payment methods.





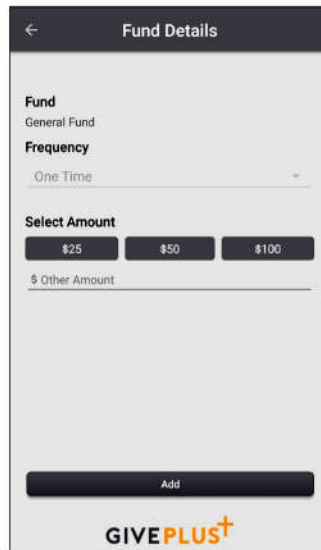
# GivePlus How-To: In the Mobile App

## 1) Search



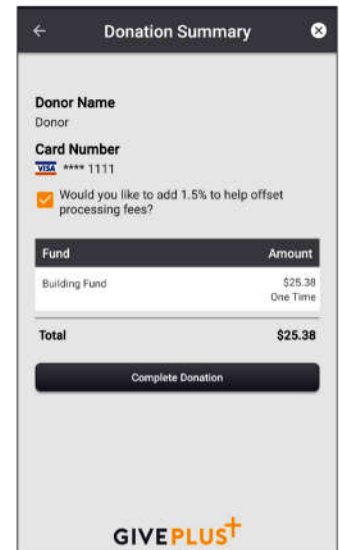
- Enter church name or tap *Find Churches Near Me* to start your search
- Select your church
- Your selected church will be displayed as your default church
- Tap *Give Now*

## 2) Select



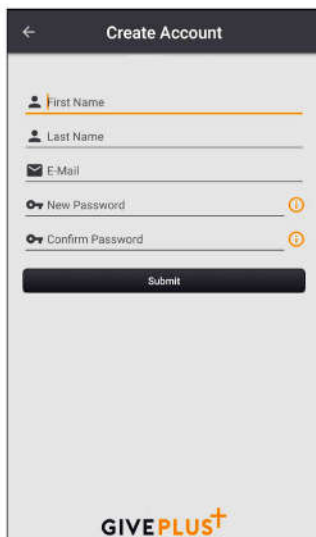
- Choose a fund and a preset amount or enter another amount
- Select *Add* to add another fund or move forward to the payment information
- Scan or enter your card or bank account information

## 3) Submit



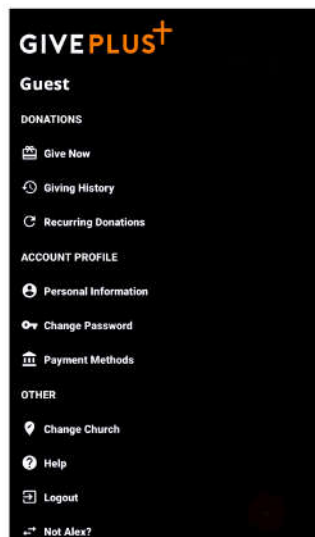
- Review your donation summary then select *Complete Donation*

## Create



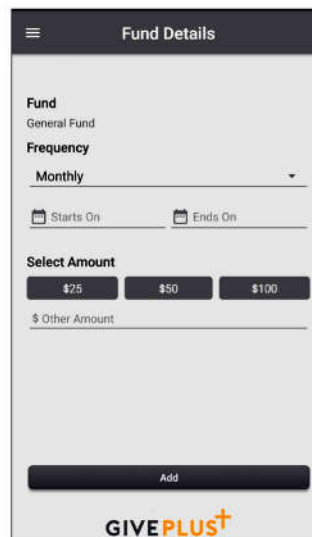
- It only takes a few minutes to create an account with an email address and password
- You'll have the option to log in using the Touch ID/Fingerprint feature or a PIN

## Manage



- Tap the menu icon to manage personal information, change password, review donations or update/add payment methods

## Schedule



- Next time you donate, tap *Select Frequency* to create a recurring weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or annual donation to the fund of your choice
- **Note:** Your church determines frequency options

## Review



- From the menu, go to *Recurring Donations* to view or delete any scheduled donation made through the GivePlus app
- Or, select *Giving History* to review your past GivePlus donations

## Our Life Together

**For emergency pastoral care**, please call Pastor Emily Beckering, 513-760-5884.

**If you have requests for the Prayer Chain**, call Penny Huber, 513-931-6420. To remove people from the list, contact the office.

We pray for **Annabelle** (daughter of friends of Katie Schieman); **Mary and her granddaughter Kyra** (friend of Paul Pieper); **Berkeley** (Carol Curless's great-grandson); **Louise Barry; Teresa Bell** (former member); **Stephen Black** (Kim Coulehan's nephew); **Bobby** (Christian Lohmeier's friend); **Brent and Katie** (friends of Elinor Schieman's granddaughter); **Brett** (Kings' step-nephew); **Jodie Calhoun; Christian; Kathy Curless; George Demetriades** (Portmanns' friend); **Katie Demopoulos** (Diana Hawkins's niece); **Dick** (Linda Miller's brother); **Jeremy Doan** (Jean Winkle's grandson); **Jerry Doan** (Jean Winkle's son-in-law); **Norb Eble** (Portmanns' friend); **Eckerle and Wuestefeld families; Tom Eckerle** (Les Eckerle's cousin); **Lee Erbeck; Larry Faulkner** (Freda's son); **Justin Feldman** (Bess Sturgill's father); **Jeanne Fuller; Jason Garcia** (Mayhughs' nephew); **Clara Garcia** (Cindy Mayhugh's sister); **Nathaniel Gibson** (Les Eckerle's step-nephew); **Hannah; Matthew Harrison** (Seals' neighbor); **Elain Heskamp; Richard Hoffman** (Cindy Mayhugh's brother); **Andrew Horton; Ellen Hunter** (Jeni Cathcart's grandmother); **Joan** (Penny Huber's friend); **Kate** (granddaughter of Dennis King's friend); **Dennis King; Jay King** (son of Jamie King); **Loretta Kombrink** (Marilyn Portmann's aunt); **Lewis Laine** (Chet Laine's brother); **Richard Lane** (Elinor Schieman's nephew); **Regina Laursen** (Portmanns' friend); **Nick Mayer** (Elinor Schieman's grandson-in-law); **Carroll Mayhugh Sr.** (Carroll Mayhugh's father); **Samantha Mersch** (Mayhughs' daughter, Sarah Papin's sister); **Jessica Mink** (Donald Harris's cousin); **Doris Minton; Barbara and Jack Moorhouse; Jean Nolte; Ervin Oerther** (Portmanns' brother-in-law); **Richard Osborn**

(Betty Pack's brother); **Rosie Osborn** (Betty Pack's sister); **Eric Papin; Don Pflieger** (Kings' brother-in-law); **Linda Perin** (Moorhouses' cousin); **Paul Pieper; Faith Pirrmann; Pat Popplewell** (Dennis King's friend); **James Savoy** (Jean Winkle's great-grandson); **Shawn Schnetzer** (Sturgills' cousin); **Sheila Schultz** (Betty Pack's friend); **Shannon and Dane** (friends of Riddle family); **Keith Shupe** (father of Kelly Shupe); **Jason Simpson** (Freda Faulkner's grand-nephew); **Elizabeth Smith** (Elain Heskamp's sister); **Scott Songer; Judy Songer** (friends of Jean Winkle); **Crosley Spelman** (Spelmans' grandson); **Jack Spelman; Susan** (Elinor Schieman's niece); **Britney Jean Teems** (Jean Winkle's granddaughter); **Teresa** (friend of Marty Lohmeier); **Randy Thaman** (friend of Marie Calhoun); **Ralph Turner** (friend of Dennis King); **Jack Wagner; Daryl Wesselman** (Betty Pack's granddaughter); **Jean Winkle; Susan Winkle** (Jean Winkle's daughter-in-law).

At the death of: **Erwin Hoffman.**

We pray for those with ongoing health concerns who are unable to come to church every week: **Louise Barry, Carol Leonard, Jack and Barbara Moorhouse, Jean Nolte, Heather Segar.**

We pray for our armed forces members: **Graham Barton** (Fords' neighbor); **Paul Cordes** (Elinor Schieman's grandson); **Jared Forst** (Jim and 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** (Doris Minton's son); **Jobeth Ramirez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Joshua Rodriguez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Trent Schwegman** (cousin to the Erbecks and Fords); **Dustin Silvey; Mack Thompson** (Freda Faulkner's grandson); **Alex Wisecup** (son of Nadine and Barry Wisecup).

## Christian Education Schedule

Date	Nursery	Activity Time	Sunday School, Ages 3-7	Sunday School, Ages 8-11	Sunday School, Jr/Sr High
<b>March 1</b>	Jeni Cathcart, Kim Coulehan	Bridget Cathcart, Joyce McDowell	Kim Coulehan, Jeni Cathcart	Nancy Erbeck, Bess Sturgill	Donald Harris, John Cathcart
<b>March 8</b>	Joyce McDowell, Bess Sturgill	Becky Betsch, Penny Huber	/	/	/
<b>March 15</b>	Taylor Beckering, Jeni Cathcart	Bridget Cathcart, Bess Sturgill	Kim Coulehan, Taylor Becker-	Nancy Erbeck, Bess Sturgill	Donald Harris, John Cathcart
<b>March 22</b>	Taylor Beckering, Kim Coulehan	John Cathcart, Bess Sturgill	Kim Coulehan, Jeni Cathcart	Nancy Erbeck, Bess Sturgill	Donald Harris, John Cathcart
<b>March 29</b>	Taylor Beckering, Kim Coulehan	Joyce McDowell, Bess Sturgill	Kim Coulehan, Taylor Becker-	Nancy Erbeck, Bess Sturgill	Donald Harris, John Cathcart

## Worship Leaders Schedule

Month-Long Ministries	<b>BULLETINS:</b> Penny Huber and Betty Pack <b>ALTAR GUILD:</b> <i>Linens:</i> Jane Erbeck; <i>Setup:</i> Janet King; <i>Cleanup:</i> Dottie Deloatch <b>COUNTER:</b> Jim Miller			
Date	Assisting Minister	Lesson Reader	Acolyte	Communion Minister
<b>March 1</b> 1 Lent	Donald Harris	Kathy Crosby	Patrick Cathcart	Chelsea King
<b>March 8</b> 2 Lent	Leandra Hawkins	Chet Laine	Katie Sturgill	Ron & Shirley Har- baugh
<b>March 15</b> 3 Lent	Nelson Langefeld	Carroll Mayhugh	Alanna Cathcart	Pat Coldiron
<b>March 22</b> 4 Lent	Carroll Mayhugh	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	Bridget Cathcart	Carolyn Koehl
<b>March 29</b> 5 Lent	Terry McDowell	Carroll Mayhugh	Katie Sturgill	Pat Coldiron

St. Paul  
Lutheran Church

As a community of Christian believers, we are called by God to use the many gifts He has given us, within the church and the community, so others may come to know Him.

## Music Director's Retirement

Our Music Director, Barry Prince, is retiring this month. His last Sunday of leadership in this role will be Sunday, March 29. We are grateful to Barry for his 12 years of service to this congregation in Jesus' name. Barry has requested not to have a retirement party, so please take the opportunity this month to express to Barry in person your appreciation and how his leadership has impacted our worship and your life. We now have a Music Director Search Committee: Nancy Erbeck, Carolyn Koehl, Cindy Mayhugh, Kate Wollenburg, Jack Wagner, and Pastor Emily. The committee will begin meeting this month to post this position. Please pray for Barry at this time of transition and for the search committee as they begin their work so that they may discern God's guidance for this congregation.

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE