



Saint Paul's
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 2025 EPISTLE

VOLUME 3

Lent:

A Season
of Preparation

MARCH 2025

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ELIZABETH

Dear Members and Friends of St. Paul's,

"Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

These words, spoken annually during our Ash Wednesday liturgy, help to remind us that our Earthly lives are finite and that through our faith we are connected to all the saints who have gone before us, and the ones who will come after us. It helps to remind us that death is not an end but rather a new beginning. It is the promise of eternal life with God in heaven. It is the beginning of the Lenten Season.



This year, our Ash Wednesday service is on March 5 at 7:00pm.

It is a chance for us to be reminded that we are beloved children of God that have been marked with the cross of Christ forever. And that through the gift of the Holy Spirit we are called to share Christ's love with others in our midst.

I invite you to join me around the conference table beginning on March 12 and the following Wednesdays in Lent, for Bible Study at 6:00 pm. This year we will be looking at a bible study entitled, "People of the Light". We will end the night with a service of Evening Prayer at 7:00 pm. Please consider making Wednesday night part of your Lenten devotions as we journey toward the cross together as a congregation this year.

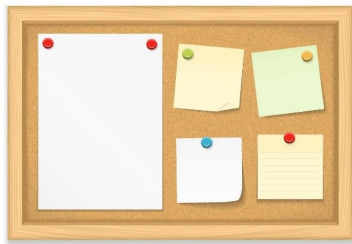
Peace and Blessings,

The Rev. Elizabeth A Cummings

ST. PAUL'S MISSION STATEMENT:

We of St. Paul's Lutheran Church believe in God's grace given to us freely. We are called to faithfully follow God's Word, sharing in the good news of this grace. We are to be God's hands helping those in need—those we know, and those we do not know.

When we say, "Here I am Lord," we express our desire to become disciples of Christ, accepting the mission to do what is asked of us. Our prayer on this journey is to walk with faith, to love one another, to share God's love and to be the hands of God.



We Are Getting Ready to Refresh Our Bulletin Boards!

Did you know that throughout our Connector, Fellowship Hall and the Narthex we have 10 bulletin boards!! The Communications team is beginning to refresh all these boards throughout the building. We would welcome input from church members to know what kind of information you would like to see displayed in these spaces. We encourage you to email our chairperson, Joy Hansen, via email: jihansenhome@gmail.com **THANK YOU!**



MARCH 2025

MARCH GOSPEL READINGS

March 2nd:	Luke 9:28-43a
March 9th:	Luke 4:1-13
March 16th:	Luke 13:1-35
March 23th:	Luke 13:1-9
March 30th:	Luke 15:1-3,11b-332



Ash Wednesday Worship Marks the Beginning of Our Lenten Journey

March 5th, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

Readings, quiet meditation, song, confession and prayer, along with the cross-shaped tracing of ashes on the foreheads of worshippers will mark the beginning of our Lenten journey at St. Paul's Church. Join us on Ash Wednesday, March 5th at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday Evenings in Lent...People of Light Bible Study



On five consecutive Wednesday evenings during Lent, beginning March 12th, please join Pastor Elizabeth for Bible Study at 6:00 pm followed by a liturgy service of Evening Prayer at 7:00 p.m.

MARCH 2025

The Wednesday Get-Together Group will be starting up again on March 5th at 10:00 AM sharp. This will be an organizational meeting to discuss some fresh new ideas for 2025 events.

We will also have a short meeting to make plans for our Bake Sale on April 12th. Please bring a sack lunch; the beverage will be provided. Look forward to seeing you there!



On Sunday, March 2, 2025 we will have a Pancake Breakfast to support Donate Life after Church. All are welcome!!

Donate Life Connecticut is dedicated to the purpose of public education and awareness for all Connecticut residents concerning the lifesaving benefits of organ and tissue donation. Organ donation provides a life-giving, life-enhancing opportunity to those who are at the end of the line for hope. Increasing the number of registered donors is critical to saving lives of so many on the waiting list.

Please save the date on your calendar and join us for this delicious breakfast and important discussion!!

FULLY WRITTEN ARTICLES FOR THE APRIL EPISTLE are due by MARCH 24TH.

Please send your article to me exactly the way you would like it to appear at:

office@stpaulswethersfield.org

Thank you!
Lorraine Gianakos



MARCH 2025

ST. PAUL'S EASTER MEMORIAL GARDEN

FLOWER PRICES

We are looking forward to once again having our memorial garden in the church on Easter Morning. This year the cost of the plants is as follows:

Tulips and Daffodils \$13.00

Easter Lilies \$18.50

Please write on your order form your plant selection of Tulips, Daffodils and/or Lilies and the number of each. Forms will also be available at church or in the weekly email.

Orders and payment must be in by March 31st.



2025 EASTER MEMORIAL GARDEN - PLANT ORDER FORM

Please print name(s) exactly as you want it (them) to appear:
Given in memory of _____

REVISED Flower prices:

Tulips (\$13.00 each)

Number of Plants _____

Daffodils (\$13.00 each)

Number of Plants _____

Easter Lilies (\$18.50 each)

Number of Plants _____

Total Amount \$ _____

Orders and Payment need to be in the church office by March 31st.

The following are options for your selection:

Take Plant Home _____

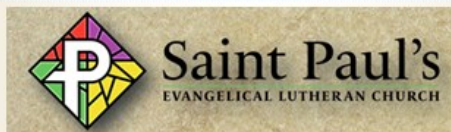
Donate Plant for our Homebound _____

MARCH 2025

New Organ Dedication Concert!

Mark your calendars now for the dedication concert for St. Paul's Organ! Held on Sunday, March 23 at 4pm, this will be a free concert to showcase the various features of our amazing organ. The St. Paul's community of friends, neighbors, relatives and parishioners together with the invaluable gifts from Lois Woy and Louise Lostocco made the purchase of this instrument possible, and we are deeply grateful.

Melissa Cheyney, our Music Director, will be joined by organists Bruce Henley and Mark Child. Listen to the sounds from different eras: Baroque, French Classic, French Symphonic and English romantic. Please join the celebration!



New Organ Dedication Concert **Sunday, March 23, 2025** **4:00 pm**

Featuring Organists:

Melissa Cheyney
Mark Child
Bruce Henley



Listen to digital samples from instruments from world class organbuilders:

Arp Schnitger - The Netherlands
Johann Andreas Silberman - Wasselone, France
Cavaillé-Coll - Caen, France
William Hill - England

Please join us and come hear our new organ!
Newest Digital Technology

Free Admission and Refreshments!

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
371 Wolcott Hill Road
Wethersfield, CT 06109
860-529-5397 / www.stpaulswethersfield.org



Altar Flowers

You may now sign up to provide a beautiful arrangement of altar flowers for Sunday Worship for only \$25.

We are hoping to see the natural beauty of flowers grace our Sanctuary more frequently. The hope is that the reduction in cost will allow for members to participate more often.

The revised sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hallway. For anyone who wishes to have two arrangements or share with someone else, the cost will remain \$50.

Please indicate this when you sign up: one bouquet (\$25), two bouquets (\$50).



**Our Food Pantry needs
for March 2025 are:**

**Cereal, Coffee, Ramen
Noodles, Canned Chicken
Noodle & Vegetable
Soups, Canned Tuna,
Brown & White Rice**

MARCH 2025

SAVE THE DATE!!

Cookie Walk & Bake Sale



Saturday, April 12th

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

We're planning to bring back our popular Cookie Walk / Bake Sale on Saturday, April 12th from 9 am - 1 pm and you know what that means: We need our faithful bakers to start thinking about what delicious baked goods can be made to fill our tables.

More details to come!!!

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

MARCH 2025

FORTY DAYS, FORTY ITEMS




**Wednesday, March 5th is the first day of Lent.
I have a challenge for you!**

**Each day of Lent remove one item from your closet
that you no longer wear or need and put it in a trash
bag.**

**At the end of 40 days, donate these items to a place
that can share them with someone who can really use
them.**

MARCH 2025

BIBLE VERSE OF THE MONTH

A scenic view of a forest with trees reflecting in a calm body of water. The text is overlaid on this image.

For now we see
only a reflection
as in a mirror;
then we shall see
face to face.

1 Corinthians 13:12a

MARCH 2025

**Young Adult Gathering in Central CT
February 22, 2025
Hops on the Hill - Glastonbury, CT**



**Kate & Nick Townsend,
Collin Grottke & Pr. Elizabeth Cummings**

MARCH 2025

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS - March THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

MARCH 2ND:

ASSISTING MINISTER: Patty Bengtson
READER: Irene Brarebn
USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppap, Martial Roy & Sophia
ALTAR: Patty Bengtson
COUNTER: Rory Cummings

MARCH 5th: ASH WEDNESDAY

ASSISTING MINISTER: Patty Bengtson
READER: Patty Bengtson
USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppap, Martial Roy & Sophia
ALTAR: Patty Bengtson

MARCH 9TH:

ASSISTING MINISTER: NAME
READER: Joan Kratzer
USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppap, Martial Roy & Sophia
ALTAR: Elaine Strecker
COUNTER: Dave Hourigan
FELLOWSHIP HOUR: Jerry Hansen

MARCH 16TH

ASSISTING MINISTER: NAME
READERS: Jeanette Serafine
USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppap, Martial Roy & Sophia
ALTAR: NAME
COUNTER: George Howe
FELLOWSHIP HOUR: NAME

MARCH 2025

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS - March THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

MARCH 23RD:

ASSISTING MINISTER: Joy Hansen
READER: Joy Hansen
USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppap, Martial Roy & Sophia
ALTAR: Deb & George Howe
COUNTER: Dave Hourigan
FELLOWSHIP HOUR: NAME_____

MARCH 30TH:

ASSISTING MINISTER: Carol Bruce
READER: NAME_____

USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppap, Martial Roy & Sophia
ALTAR: Carol Bruce
COUNTER: Judy Gerken
FELLOWSHIP HOUR: NAME_____

MARCH 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Transfiguration of Our Lord 10:00 AM WORSHIP COFFEE HOUR AFTER WORSHIP	3	4 WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE MTG 4:30 PM	5 Wed. Get-Together Grp 10 AM 7:00 pm ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE CHOIR 7:30 pm	6 FOOD PANTRY 10:00-1:00	7	8
9 1st Sunday of Lent 10:00 AM WORSHIP COFFEE HOUR AFTER WORSHIP	10	11 PARISH ADMIN MTG 6:30 PM	12 People of Light Bible Study 6 pm Evening Prayer 7:00 pm CHOIR 7:30 PM	13 FOOD PANTRY 10:00-1:00 COMMUNICATIONS MTG. 6:00 pm	14	15
16 2nd Sunday of Lent 10:00 AM WORSHIP COFFEE HOUR AFTER WORSHIP	17 	18 COUNCIL MTG 7:00 PM	19 Wed. Get-Together Grp 10 AM People of Light Bible Study 6 pm Evening Prayer 7:00 pm CHOIR 7:30 PM	20 FOOD PANTRY 10:00-1:00	21	22
23 3rd Sunday of Lent 10:00 AM WORSHIP COFFEE HOUR AFTER WORSHIP New Organ Dedication Concert 4pm	24	25	26 People of Light Bible Study 6 pm Evening Prayer 7:00 pm CHOIR 7:30 PM	27 FOOD PANTRY 10:00-1:00 VBC Meeting 7:00 pm	28	29
30 4th Sunday of Lent 10:00 AM WORSHIP COFFEE HOUR AFTER WORSHIP	31					

MARCH 2025

PASTOR:

The Reverend Elizabeth Cummings
pastor@stpaulswethersfield.org

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

Lorraine Gianakos
office@stpaulswethersfield.org

MINISTER OF MUSIC:

Melissa Cheyney
missycheyney@yahoo.com

**SUPERINTENDENT OF
SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL:**

Alice Ruppar
aruppar@sbcglobal.net



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

371 WOLCOTT HILL ROAD
WETHERSFIELD, CT 06109

860-529-5397

stpaulswethersfield.org

Office Hours -

Tuesday — Friday

9am — 1 pm

COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Matt Perry
mperry0905@aol.com

COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT:

Heather Christensen
heather.christensen@combined.com

COUNCIL SECRETARY:

Margaret DeBlois
mdebloisrpt@yahoo.com

TREASURER:

Tom Grottke
tgrottke@thenbsgroup.com

FINANCIAL SECRETARY:

Mary Procyk
Mprocyk.shopping@gmail.com

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bookkeeper@stpaulswethersfield.org

