



The Current

The Monthly Newsletter

of

St. Paul Lutheran Church

4600 9th Avenue North

Pensacola, FL 32503



COME WORSHIP WITH US!

- We are a progressive, inclusive, affirming Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) congregation in Pensacola, Florida. Join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM. Holy Communion is open to all and is offered at each service.
- Sunday morning worship at 9:30 AM (Central)
- In person or online via Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/watchstpaul>
- Visit our Preschool on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/StPaulLutheranPreschoolPensacola/>
- Visit our website at www.stpaulpensacola.church
- (850) 438-5229
- stpaulpensacolaelca@gmail.com

St. Paul

Outdoor Service and Picnic

Sunday, May 5th at 9:30am

Picnic following worship. Please bring your favorite side or main dish to share if you can. Don't forget the dessert!



Everyone is welcome!

Contact Monica at [\(850\)529.2119](tel:(850)529.2119) or Rachel at rachel.j.geisler@gmail.com if you would like to help setting up, serving or cleaning up.



President's Report for April 2024

Dear Members & Guests of St. Paul:

April – with spring comes new opportunities for growth and for contribution to our community of faith! First, we welcomed eight new members this month to our congregation. This brings a wonderful opportunity for us to experience new people, enjoy new conversations, and share in new initiatives to support our congregation. Please join me in welcoming them and be sure to get to know them in the days and weeks ahead!

I am also excited to announce that we are starting to work with an outside ELCA facilitator to update our congregation's vision, mission, and goals. This has been planned for nearly a year, and we finally are able to begin this work. It will be a five-month effort to review our current vision statement, review where our congregation is and where we want to go. You each will be asked to be involved in this project, starting with an initial questionnaire.

The questionnaire will explore what you are looking for in our congregation, what you see as strengths, and what areas we should focus on from your perspective moving forward. When you receive this questionnaire, please take a few moments to respond. Your voice is important as we establish our next steps in the life of the congregation. The results of this effort will also help to guide our search for a permanent pastor moving forward.

President's Report for April 2024 (cont.)

We ask that you each participate in the first, important step in the process. You should see the questionnaire in your email by the end of April or early May. We will also have paper copies in the narthex for two consecutive Sundays if you prefer to complete the questionnaire in written form.

This will be an exciting and important process in the life of our church. If you have any questions along the way, please don't hesitate to contact me or anyone on the Congregational Council. You can also always reach out to our Senior Pastor, Pr. Mary Peterson, and our Vicar, Vicar Dori Dunham. We are all here to help! And for your part, please join in to the many activities ongoing on a weekly basis. All are welcome!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach me by phone at (850) 499-6666 or by email at linda.brent@theastagroup.com.

Yours in Christ,
Linda Brent Baradon
President, Congregational Council
St. Paul Lutheran Church

Pastor's Report for April 2024

GMORNING, GNIGHT! little pep talks for me and you.

Lin-Manuel Miranda wrote this collection of “pep talks. Jon Sunny made drawings for them. I bought this book 5 years ago and I turn to it often. We all need pep talks, don't we?

Here's an example.

“Good morning, good gracious, your smile is contagious. Good night then. Good gracious. You're one for the ages.”

These offerings from Miranda and Sunny aren't labeled as prayers. However, they feel like prayers to me. A way to focus and to relax. To surround our hearts and minds with gratitude to God as well as ways to ask for some help. Someone, (there's that someone, again) said that there are only two kinds of prayers: “Thank you,” and “Help.”

Do you agree? Maybe we could talk about it.

Pastor's Report for April 2024

Our Brother Priest, Martin Luther, taught that prayer is an essential part of every day for us. As a former Augustinian monk, he learned and participated in prayer at appointed times each day, from very, very early in the morning to the time just before sleep.

The Evangelical Lutheran Worship provides prayers for seasons and times lots and lots of them. Luther also taught that hymns are prayers and proclamations of the Gospel. The Psalms are a collection of prayers that speak to and about every possible human situation, prayers that are full of praise and pleas for help. Maybe we could undertake a short course on the psalms.

Back to daily prayers. Beginning on page 298 of the ELW, there are four “offices” appointed for Morning, Evening, Night and Responsive Prayer. Kind of Gmorning, Gday and Gnight.

Have you ever heard: “You Lutherans sure pray a lot?” Yes, we surely do. May the peace of Christ be with you all, from Gmorning to Gnight and all over again.

Pastor Mary E. Peterson

Vicar's Corner, April 2024

Spring is here, and Pensacola is a beautiful place to enjoy it! I love walking around the church grounds and looking at our beautiful flowers and memorial garden! Our church grounds look great! I am so blessed to be serving my internship year here as your Vicar at St. Paul.

For those who are curious, a Vicar is like a pastor's assistant. Vicars are still in the process of ministerial education, and are often referred to as pastor-in-training. Vicars work closely with the senior pastor to support the Church's mission and vision. As a Vicar, I report directly to Pr. Mary Peterson. I also have a wonderfully supportive Internship Committee headed up by Shane Maskalick.

Vicar's Corner, April 2024

In addition to being a Vicar, because of our unique situation, I have also been appointed by the Synod office as someone who is authorized to provide word and sacrament ministry at Saint Paul. In other words, I am allowed to perform Sacramental duties (Preside at communion, Preside at Baptisms, etc.) in the absence of an ordained Pastor.

As you have probably noticed, I am experimenting with approaches for my sermons. Notes, no notes, manuscripts, and outlines are all different ways to prepare for and deliver a sermon. I would love to hear your thoughts. Please feel free to email me any time at ddunham@uls.edu.

Vicar's Corner, April 2024

Children, youth, and young at hearts, we are looking for people to help with the processions and carry in the cross, and to be acolytes. If you are interested, please see Vicar Dori. We will be having a short class soon where we can answer all of your questions and show how easy it is to serve!

Do you have other ideas for the church? I would love to hear them. Call the church or email me to set up an appointment.

Peace,

Vicar Dori

Notable Events

May 5, 2024 @ 9:30 A.M. – Church Picnic

October 2024 - ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans - Check the website for more info <https://www.elca.church/gathering>

Announcement – New Members

We welcome new members to our church family. If you are new to the Pensacola area or have been a long-time resident and are looking for a church family, we invite you to come visit, worship, and stay afterward and join us in the fellowship hall for refreshments.

If you are a member, please bring a friend to church and help to spread the word about our wonderful faith community.

If you are a Lutheran, you can call the church office to work with them to transfer your membership. If you are new to the Lutheran faith, we offer short, quarterly classes on the history of Lutheranism and would love to share this story with you. You can reach out to our church with your interest at (850) 438-5229 or at stp301198@gmail.com.

Hospitality Report for April 2024

On Easter Sunday we were welcomed to coffee hour with cinnamon rolls, hot cross buns and marshmallow bunnies in cars! Thank you to everyone for the treats that have become our Easter tradition!

New members, April birthdays and Willem's farewell were all on celebrated on April 14th ! Shirley made a delicious Butter Pecan Bundt cake for the coffee hour festivities.

Our next BIG event will be our Annual Picnic & Outdoor Worship Service! Start thinking of a side dish or dessert to bring! The picnic will be held after the service on May 5th ! The set up for the service and picnic will take extra work, so please volunteer to help. Look for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Hospitality Report for April 2024

Just a few reminders that help the Hospitality folks welcome you and get to know

you:

Wear your name tags

Sign the guest books in the pews

Join us for Fellowship/coffee hour after services

Help in the kitchen and volunteer to bring treats for Fellowship/coffee hour

Sign up can be found at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040945A4A822A2F58-44434763-coffee#/>

Welcome folks at the name tag table

For information on how you can become involved contact Monica or Rachel!

Memorial Garden Update

April 6th was a perfect day for working outside. The Memorial Garden crew planted 24 new plants as part of the updates to the garden. We had design help from a professional landscape architect, who volunteered her talents and the muscle to dig, plant, and prepare the space which was done with care and reverence by our Memorial Garden crew of outstanding volunteers.

Completion of the Memorial Garden updates will require another workday, so please let us know if you'd like to help. Special thanks to Robert, Rachel G., Cindy Y., Brent, Shane, John, Dori, Kevin, and Monica for prepping and planting.

As a side project, there were five clay pots planted for the entrance doors. Thank you to Rachel and Monica for donating the pots, soil, and flowers. If you see flowers drooping, there are watering cans in the kitchen by the tiny sink. All help in appreciated!

Memorial Garden Update



St. Paul Music Ministry

ST. PAUL MUSIC- vocal choir and handbell choir

Choir rehearsals are Sunday mornings before worship at 8:45 A.M. in the music suite. The music is interesting but not difficult. Come and make a joyful noise!

Please see, text 850-291-9085 or email (annhoush@gmail.com) Ann Housh for more information about vocal choir.

St. Paul Music Ministry (cont.)

Handbell Choir

Handbell Choir rehearsals are Sunday mornings at 10:30 A.M.

You are invited to come join us!

Contact for handbell choir information is Jill Adams, text: 915-274-3041
or email: jawelp@yahoo.com



Pre-K Happenings, April 2024
Scholastic Book Fair





Pre-K Happenings, April 2024
Preschool Family Day



Pre-K Happenings
Preschool Family Day





Pre-K Happenings
New Playground Firetruck



Pre-K Happenings Western Day



Pre-K Happenings Western Day

Pre-K Happenings Western Day



PRAYER LIST

- Pastor Eric
- Pastor Mary
- Dori, Dontavis, & Family
- Jan & Joe Sumner
- Neil and Rhonda
- Robert and Rachel
- The family and friends of Ralph Schofield



To add a name to our newsletter prayer list, please email the editor at hesfu@gmail.com.

May Birthdays

Flynn Granger

Charlotte Elder

Judith Oldenburg

Donna Funck

Heather Tyms

Kim Larson

Randy Sides

Daniel Elder

Charlotte Greunke

Marie Zube

Regina Swanson

Crystal Van Dyk

Marlin (Sam) Tagatz



Living Lutheran

Be Brave

Growing together – April 2024

By [Kimberly Knowle-Zeller](#), April 4, 2024

Focal verse

“Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power” ([Ephesians 6:10](#)).

Living Lutheran (cont.)

Reflection

Just before my 9-year-old daughter read in church for the first time, she turned to me and said, “I’m nervous.” Once a month our congregation invites children to read the lessons and psalm. As my daughter continues to gain fluency and confidence in her reading, I asked her if she’d like to read in church. She said yes but with a lot of nerves. We practiced at home and in the sanctuary with the microphone, and each time the words flowed more easily.

When it was time to walk to the front of the church, she did so with determination and courage. I stood by her side to support and encourage her as she read the first lesson. When she finished, she told me, “I did it.” Her pride showed in her smile and again as members of the congregation told her how nice a job she did.



Living Lutheran (cont.)

- One gift of being in community is feeling safe enough to try new things. To be brave and confident. To know that we are surrounded by love and grace. This is the only church my daughter knows, and the members have loved her since before she was born. They've watched her grow and learn in faith. And they were there to encourage her when she stepped out of her comfort zone.
- I pray that you have this sense of welcome in your community. Or, if not, that you can find a place where you belong. Is there something you're nervous about but would like to try? Maybe there's a desire in your heart to start a small group for parents or to lead a book study. Perhaps you feel inspired to share your music with the congregation. Or maybe you see something in your children and want to encourage them to volunteer and share their gifts.
- The Easter season is full of surprises—the empty tomb being the greatest of them all. In the spirit of this resurrection hope, what brave thing can you try? As you do something new, remember that God is with you.

Living Lutheran (cont.)

Practices

- Make a list of things you've dreamed of doing, either on your own or as a family. Where do you feel the Spirit nudging you to try something new? Pray for inspiration and courage.
- The [season of Easter](#) is 50 days! Take time to share small gifts of hope and resurrection with your community. Chalk encouraging notes on the sidewalk. Bake cookies or bread and deliver it to a neighbor. Together, craft and decorate your home with paper butterflies.

Prayer Practices

- [Breath prayers](#) are simple yet powerful ways to connect to both our bodies and God. When you feel overwhelmed, or if you're starting something new and feel nervous or afraid, take a few moments to take a deep breath, repeating a phrase or words of Scripture.
- *Inhale*: God, you are with me.
Exhale: Help me feel your love.



Helping Hands

- On the 4th Sunday of each month, the Mutual Aid Working Group from the Pensacola Chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America gather in the church kitchen to prepare and pack up meals for delivery to the homeless community at Satoshi Forest on Michigan Avenue. Volunteers consist of PDSA members, as well as friends of all ages who aren't affiliated with DSA. Using the church's kitchen has made it much easier to accomplish these monthly meal shares and provide care to some of the homeless folks in our area.



Manna Food Pantry
(<http://www.mannahelps.org/>)

Food donations to the Manna Food Pantry may be dropped off at the Church in the basket by the Fellowship Hall entrance.

Current most needed items:

- **Chicken and Tuna (canned and pouches)**
- **Oatmeal (boxes of single-serve packets)**
- **Mixed Vegetables (canned and with peel-off lids)**
- **Microwaveable Dinners (e.g. Hormel Compleats)**
- **Fruit in 100% Juice (canned and with peel-off lids)**
- **Peanut Butter (1 lb. jars and individual cups)**
- **Canned Dinners (stew, chicken and dumplings, etc.,)**
- **Canned Soup (low-sodium)**

Soda Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

WAIT! WAIT! Save those soda/pop can/soup can (aluminum) tabs. Collect them and bring your collection to St. Paul. Put them in the container designated “Save those Tabs” on the counter in the parish hall kitchen.

Ronald McDonald House in Pensacola can convert those tabs to funds that support the House in its efforts to provide away-from-home housing for children and families while they are receiving medical care.

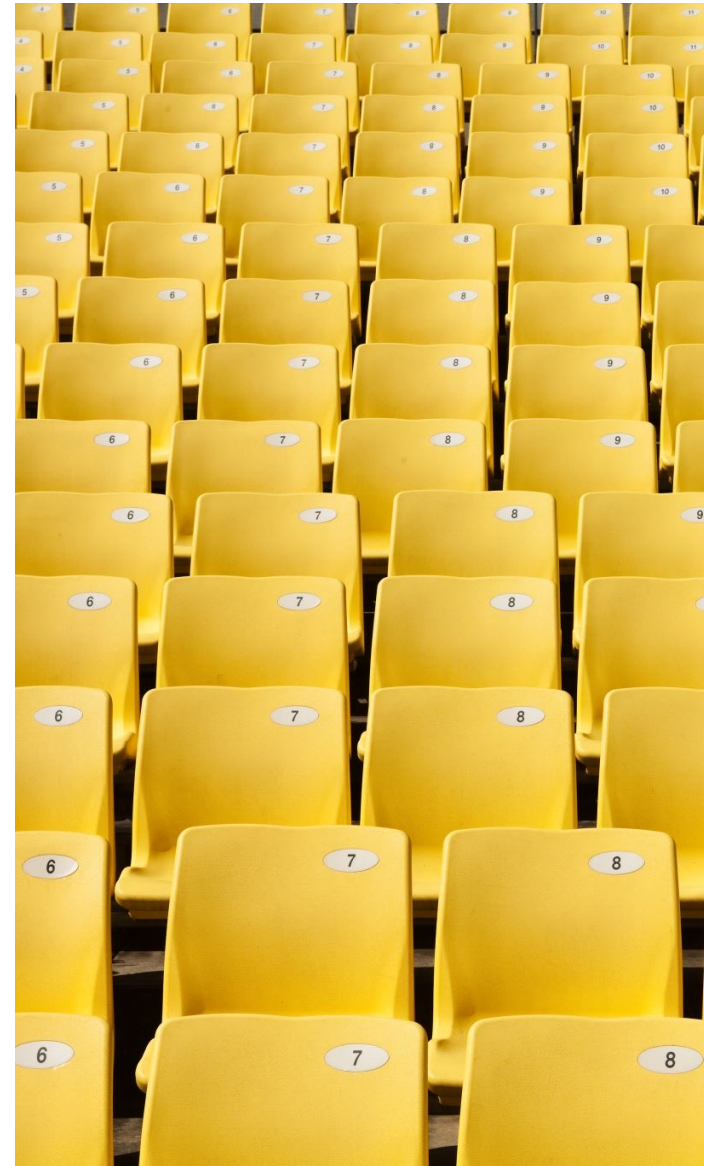
Annually, donations of these tabs raise about \$5,000 for operating expenses of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northwest Florida.

The teachings of St. Therese of Lisieux (1873-1897), Carmelite nun and Doctor of the Church, still encourage people to follow the “Little Way.” That is, to do seemingly small things with great love. This “Little Way” changes lives; both the receiver’s and the giver’s.

Baseball Trivia

Last Month's Trivia: Fenway Park, Boston, Massachusetts, opened on April 20, 1912 and is the oldest park still in use in Major League Baseball.

This Month's Trivia: Who holds the record for most consecutive games played and how many consecutive games did he play?



St Paul Lutheran Council Members

PR. MARY PETERSON – petersonmary@bellsouth.net

LINDA BRENT BARADON - President - Linda.brent@theastagroup.com

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ELCA Websites

- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: <https://www.elca.org/>
- Florida Bahamas Synod: <https://fbsynod.com/>
- Reconciling Works, Lutherans for Full Participation: <https://www.reconcilingworks.org/>
- Lutheran Disaster Response: <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response>
- Living Lutheran: <https://www.livinglutheran.org/>
- Faith: <https://www.elca.org/Faith>
- Faith and Society: <https://www.elca.org/Resources/Faith-and-Society>
- Lutheran News & Events: <https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events>
- ECLA Good Gifts: https://goodgifts.elca.org/?_ga=2.83379423.850819342.1635642686-460257376.1633571089

St. Paul's COVID Safety Protocols

- We want our church to be a safe sanctuary for everyone and we will continue to follow precautions to keep ourselves and those around us as safe and healthy as possible.
- The wearing of masks is optional for those who enter the building.
- If you are medically able to receive the coronavirus vaccine and booster(s), you are encouraged to do so. If you do not feel well, please do not attend church services until you are healthy again.
- Due to health situations, some members of our congregation may be more vulnerable than others. Please be considerate accordingly. Thank you for your cooperation and respect at following the precautions!

Note from the Editor

- “This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, which enters the Presence behind the veil.” Hebrews 6:19
- As always, I welcome your input and suggestions (hessfu@gmail.com).

Steve

- P.S. Photo is of anchor at Pensacola Maritime Park, adjacent to the Pensacola Walhoos ballpark. Anchor was discovered in Pensacola Bay and is of the type the British Navy used starting in the 1840s.





*St. Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

Sunday Worship

9:30 AM (in-person and via Zoom)



4600 N. 9th Avenue, Pensacola