



PERSPECTIVE

Monthly Newsletter of

St. Paul Lutheran Church—ELCA

200 N. Commercial Street • Neenah, WI 54956

(920) 725-3961 • stpaulneenah.org



*Gathering Joyfully, Growing Spiritually, & Going Faithfully,
Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ!*

MARCH 2025

From Pastor Amy



Dear friends,

On Ash Wednesday, as part of our liturgy we will have an ash cross drawn on our forehead and hear the words, “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

It’s a most sobering thought. This act reminds us of the fragility of life. No matter how much we accomplish, no matter what good we contribute to the world, “we are dust, and to dust we shall return.”

That ash cross holds within it the reality of our sinfulness and our “dustiness”. Scripture tells us, “The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). We are all sinners, held captive by our own sin. We live with the consequences of sinfulness – ours and that of others – as we experience greed, selfishness, racism, prejudice, and countless injustices. We know all too well the heaviness these sins bear. The ash cross reminds us of the crucifixion of Jesus, the one who bore the weight of our sins.

But this cross also reminds us that the cross now stands empty. Because of Jesus’s resurrection, death no longer has the last word. Death has been defeated once and for all. The empty cross reminds us of the hope and promise that in Jesus there is more than “dustiness”. There is life – abundant and eternal life, in Jesus Christ.

We live in the time of already and not yet. Jesus has already been victorious over death, yet we eagerly await the fullness of that victory when Jesus comes again. In the meantime we live with one foot in sin and one foot in the new life that comes from God’s forgiveness in Jesus. In this world we experience the burden, heaviness, and consequences of sin. But we also know hope, joy, and love, signs of life in Christ. We hold these two sides in tension with one another, looking for signs of hope in Christ even as we are surrounded by the effects of sin.

On Ash Wednesday and throughout the Lenten season we acknowledge the weight of sin and the ways sin prevents us from fully living as God intended. We confess our sin – that which we have done and that which we have left undone. We repent, turning back to God and God’s ways, aligning our lives with that of the Holy One who first created us. And assured of God forgiveness, we seek to find and be signs of hope, of life, and joy in Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God for not leaving us in the depths of sin, but lifting us to live in the light of Jesus, our Savior.

God’s peace be with you all.

Pastor Amy



Date	3/2/2025	3/9/2025	3/16/2025	3/23/2025	3/30/2025	4/6/2025
Assisting Minister	Linda Tipler	Eric Thompson	Dave Hoks	Linda Tipler	Eric Thompson	Linda Tipler
Lector	Audrey Borchers	Jody Tews	Jim Morgenstern	Paul Roth	Eric Ihde	Jessica Hess
Communion Assistants	Linda Tipler Diane Morse Laura Wyman		Dave Hoks Cindy Strong Laura Johnson			Linda Tipler Diane Morse Laura Wyman
Ushers	Linda Parker Alicia Macias Linda Haufe	Roger Bauer Butch Grondahl Lyle Hemp	Don Boche Gene Evenson Eric Tipler Cody Tipler	Linda Parker Alicia Macias Linda Haufe	Roger Bauer Butch Grondahl Lyle Hemp	Don Boche Gene Evenson Eric Tipler Cody Tipler
Greeters	Laura Wyman	Kathy Procknow	Nancy Orlady	ButchGrondahl	Sue Eckrich	Laura Wyman
Altar Team	Connie Humski Linda Haufe Connie Morgenstern		Peggy Wendt Connie Humski Linda Haufe			Connie Humski Linda Haufe Connie Morgenstern

Rev. Amy Engebose
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Todd Nerenhausen
Facilities Manager
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Council
Don Boche, President
Kathy Procknow, Vice-President
Audrey Borchers, Secretary
Monika Knapp, Treasurer
Sherm Jansen
Kurt Mayer
Shelley Taycher

Julie Owens
Parish Administrator
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Eric Ihde
Handbell & Sanctuary
Choirs
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Tim Krause
Custodian

Jill Hagen
Organist

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

Worship Ministry: Pastor Amy Engebose
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Prayer Ministry: Mike Dvorachek
mdvorachek@centurylink.net

Property Ministry: Eric Tipler

Meal Ministry: Alicia Macias
aliciacamimilooscar1@yahoo.com

Mission Team: Jill Hannemann
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Knit2gether: Diana Vieth
nina500@icloud.com

Quilting Angels: Bev Quella
baquilla@gmail.com

Worship Services: Sundays at 9:30 a.m.
(in-person and online at Facebook and YouTube)
Office Hours: Monday—Friday, 8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.





Congregational Informational Meeting

Sunday, March 9 after worship

Hosted by the Building Feasibility Task Force

Join us in the fellowship hall after worship on Sunday, March 9 as the Building Feasibility Task Force shares information about their work and learnings about our church building and property. This task force was formed by the Congregational Council in 2024 and charged with the task of exploring any and all options and opportunities with regard to our building/property as we move into the future.

Blessing Box Donation Item for March:

Peanut butter jars and peanut butter snacks—12 or 26 oz. jars

Please bring your donation(s) to the box in the narthex. You may also donate money instead in your offering envelope (or one from the pew rack) if you do not want to do the shopping. Thank you!



Ladies' Lunch Bunch

All ladies are invited to join our new Ladies' Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, March 12 at 11:30 a.m. at Apple Valley Pancake House, 1022 Main Street in Neenah. Please RSVP to Tamie O'Dell on Sunday mornings or via email (gtodell87@gmail.com) if you will be joining us so that we can make sure to have enough room for people. Thank you!

Daytime Warming Shelter

The daytime warming shelter at St. Paul Church is up and running! We opened the fellowship hall as a warming shelter on days that are 10 degrees or colder. The warming shelter is staffed by volunteers. There are two shifts (8:30-12:30, 12:30 – 4:30) with 3-4 volunteers per shift. We have been blessed with wonderful volunteers from St. Paul as well as First United Methodist, Congregational United Church of Christ, and Gloria Dei Lutheran Churches. Volunteers sign up for shifts when we know the shelter will be open. More volunteers are needed— call the church office to volunteer!

The daytime warming shelter has been in the news! Both WBAY TV2 and WFRV TV5 came and did stories on the warming shelter. Thanks to Jim Morgenstern for being our spokesperson! In addition, Neenah News ran a story about the shelter and the Neenah Police Department had a great Facebook post on their Facebook page! We've had a great community response to our opening the warming shelter. And we have received donations, coffee/hot chocolate and snack items, and the Neenah Police Department gave us gift bags containing hats, gloves, hygiene items, etc. to give to our guests.



St. Paul Financial Information as of January 31, 2025

2025 Total Budget	\$408,647.00
YTD Income as of 1/31/25	\$ 35,189.87
YTD Expenses as of 1/31/25	\$ 35,247.82
Difference	-\$ 57.95



The Hardest Part: hurt we carry, hope we find Sunday Lenten Theme

Lent is a season of truth-telling—a time to stop pretending everything is fine and admit how hard life can be. And life can be oh, so very difficult. The grief that comes with the death of one we love, the turmoil of tragedy and trauma, the uncertainty of the future, the chaos of our country. Yes, life can be very difficult sometimes.

Lent invites us to sit in the wilderness, to confront the heartbreak, the waiting, and the fragile hope that lives in the tension. And yet, in the difficulties of life is also where God meets us—in the mess, in the ache, in the strange, beautiful way love sneaks in when everything feels like it's falling apart.

A printed daily devotion guide will be available at the church. If you would like to access the digital version of the devotion guide online, please contact Pastor Amy for the link.

Join us on Sunday mornings during Lent, beginning March 9, as we lean into the hardest parts of our lives with the hope and promise that we will find God there waiting for us.

March 5 (Ash Wednesday)	“Being Human”
March 9	“Terrible and Beautiful!?”
March 16	“Lament: How Long?”
March 23	“Imagination: A New Way of Thinking”
March 30	“Wisdom: Before and Afters”

Planning AHEAD

St. Paul and Gloria Dei Lutheran Churches have joined with UW-Madison Division of Extension to host a new educational series called Planning AHEAD which addresses various aspects of end-of-life planning. This program consists of six one-hour classes where Extension Educators guide participants through topics such as healthcare wishes, funeral planning, financial responsibilities, legal requirements and documentation, distribution of personal property, end-of-life decisions, dealing with grief, and the emotional ramifications of these issues. The course is designed for those preparing for their own passing and those who have lost or are losing a loved one. It includes a planning workbook to help organize tasks and documents related to end-of-life decisions. By participating in these sessions, individuals find that financial, healthcare and other decisions become more manageable.

Open to the entire community, this 6-session series will be held at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1140 Tullar Road, Neenah. Sessions will be held from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. on the following Thursdays: March 6, 13, 20, 27; April 10, 24. The cost is \$20. Please register by calling 920-725-6882 or email Gloria Dei at office@gloriadeilc.org.

Mardi Gras Donut and Coffee Giveaway

On Tuesday, March 4 St. Paul Church will do a free donut and coffee drive-thru in our parking lot from 7:15-9:15 am. Helpers are still needed to help on Tuesday, March 4 at 7:00 am. to direct traffic and give drivers their coffee and donut. Sign up on the welcome desk or by calling the church office. Thank you to Jody Tews for coordinating this event and to Thrivent for the Action Team Grant!



A Lenten Mini Retreat "Becoming Us: A 40-day Encounter"

Join Pastor Amy on Saturday, March 15, 9:00-Noon, in the Fellowship Hall for a "mini" spiritual retreat, "*Becoming Us: A 40-Day Encounter*". We will step into the season of Lent by walking alongside those in scripture whose lives were forever changed in just 40 days. Their struggles, revelations, and triumphs offer a powerful roadmap for our own spiritual renewal. Through their stories, discover how this sacred season can be a time of profound transformation, guiding you toward deeper faith, clarity, and purpose. Will you embark on this journey and see where 40 days can take you?

For planning purposes, please sign up on the welcome desk or by calling the church office.

About our Presenter

Judy Koeune-Brown has over 20 years of experience in church ministry and more than seven years as a hospice chaplain. Judy holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in religion and theology from St. Norbert College in De Pere and has served as a national speaker and retreat director, guiding others through theological discovery rooted in sacred scripture.

Her latest book, *Becoming Us: A Journey to the Place Where Unity Begins*, forms the foundation of her presentations and retreats. It reflects her personal journey toward integrating all the pieces of herself leading to deeper unity with those around her. The themes within this work hold universal truths, offering insight not only for daily life but also for the Lenten journey, inviting us all into greater connection, reflection, and renewal.

St. Mark's and St Paul Joint Midweek Lenten Worship St. Mark's Lutheran Church 6:30 p.m.

Join us each Wednesday evening beginning March 12 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church for our joint midweek Lenten worship. A soup supper begins at 5:15 pm with worship at 6:30. Our sermon theme is The Hand of the Lord.

In our daily lives, our hands are powerful instruments of creation, destruction, healing, and hurting. They symbolize control, craftsmanship, and intention. During this Lenten season, we will reflect on the significance of hands in Scripture, especially the hand of the Lord. The "Hand of the Lord" appears over two hundred times in the Old Testament, symbolizing God's power in creation, judgment, salvation, and control. While less frequent in the New Testament, it takes on deep meaning as we encounter the literal hands of Jesus—used to heal, bless, and bring salvation. During this Lenten series, we will meditate on how Christ's hands, pierced for our sins, hold us in His grace, transforming our own hands for service in His name. Join us as we explore the sacred and redemptive power of the hand of the Lord.

March 12—The Hand Who Creates and Saves (Pastor Amy, Preacher)

March 19—The Hand Who Casts Out Demons (Pastor Niveen, Preacher)

March 26—The Hand Who Heals the Sick (Dr. Jean Memken, Preacher)

(There will be a joint choir this night and St. Paul Church will serve the soup supper)



The St. Paul Chili Cook-off Returns March 2

Do you think you have the best chili recipe? Is it good enough to beat the chili of our reigning chili champ, Pastor Amy?

We are still looking for a few more people to bring chili, as well as desserts and help with set-up and clean-up. Join us as we sample difference chilis and vote for your favorite.



Do you want to win bragging rights? Sign up at the welcome desk or call the church office to enter your chili in the cook-off!

BIRTHDAYS

March 1

Jill Hagen

March 5

Brenna Leiton
Dave Mentz

March 6

Amy Shafer

March 9

Quinlan Ewald

March 11

Kris Sager

March 12

Alissa Jones
Nolen Shea
Joan Wollerman

March 14

Cheryl Douglas
Elliott Shea

March 17

Russ Hannemann
Nicholas Novak

March 19

Jacob Lind
Amy Randall

March 20

Connie Humski

March 22

Tammy Nettekoven

March 24

Elizabeth Ellis
Linda Parker

March 25

Stella Buckholz

March 28

Jeff Gillis

March 30

Kevin Grondahl
Lindsay Moderson

March 31

Maren Mayer

ANNIVERSARIES

March 5, 2004

Lyle & Cheryl Hemp

March 10, 1989

Richard & Mary Platta

March 12, 1966

Butch & Julie Grondahl

March 13, 1988

Frank & Jodi Micale

March 16, 1991

Marty & Karen Gavinski

PARISH RECORDS

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to...

The family of Julie Rosenthal who died on February 3, 2025. Her memorial service was held on February 22.

The family of Scott Dahlman who died on February 12, 2025. His memorial service was held on February 17.

March Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23 9:30am Worship 10:45am GIFT Time 2:00pm Prayer Service for Peace at St. Gabriel's 7:00pm Al-Anon	24	25 9:00am Quilting Angels 11:30am Community Table 7:30pm Worship & Music meeting	26 10:00 Staff meeting	27 9:00am Conv. on Scripture 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal	28 9:00 am Knit2gether	1 11:30am Community Table
2 Transfiguration Sunday  9:30am Worship 10:45am GIFT Time 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Al-Anon	3 1:30pm Memory Care Respite 6:30pm Building Feasibility Team	4 7:15-9:15am Coffee & Donuts 9:00am Quilting Angels 11:30am Community Table 6:15pm Exec. Comm. 7:00pm Property Committee	5 Ash Wed. 10:00am Staff Meeting Noon Worship at St. Mark's 6:30pm Worship at St. Paul	6 9:00am Conv. on Scripture 1:00 pm Planning AHEAD @ Gloria Dei 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	7 9:00am Knit2gether	8 11:30am Community Table
9 Lent I 9:30am Worship 10:45am GIFT Time 7:00pm Al-Anon	10 1:30pm Memory Care Respite	11 9:00am Quilting Angels 11:30am Community Table 6:30 pm Council	12 10:00am Staff Meeting 11:30 Ladies' Lunch Bunch 6:30pm Worship @ St. Mark's	13 9:00am Conv. on Scripture 1:00 pm Planning AHEAD @ Gloria Dei 7:30pm	14 9:00am Knit2gether	15 9:00 am Lenten Retreat 11:30am Community Table
16 Lent II  9:30am Worship 10:45am GIFT Time 5:30 pm Confirmation 7:00pm Al-Anon	17	18 9:00am Quilting Angels 11:30am Community Table	19 10:00am Staff meeting 6:30pm Worship @ St. Mark's	20 9:00am Conv. on Scripture Perspective articles deadline 1:00 pm Planning AHEAD @ Gloria Dei 7:30pm	21 9:00am Knit2gether	22 11:30am Community Table
23 Lent III 9:30am Worship 10:45am GIFT Time 7:00 pm Al-Anon	24	25 9:00am Quilting Angels 11:30am Community Table 7:30pm Worship & Music meeting	26 10:00am Staff meeting 6:30pm Worship @ St. Mark's	27 9:00am Conv. on Scripture 1:00 pm Planning AHEAD @ Gloria Dei 7:30pm	28 9:00am Knit2gether	29 11:30am Community Table
30 Lent IV 9:30am Worship 10:45am GIFT Time	31	1 9:00am Quilting Angels	2 10:00am Staff meeting	3 9:00am Conv. on Scripture	4 9:00am Knit2gether	5 11:30am Community

St. Paul Lutheran Church—ELCA
200 North Commercial Street
Neenah, WI 54956

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

LENT WORSHIP SERVICES

Ash Wednesday (March 5)

**12:00 Noon - Joint Neenah ELCA worship at St. Mark's
6:30 pm. at St. Paul Church**

Both services include imposition of ashes and holy communion

Sundays During Lent

“The Hardest Part: hurt we carry, hope we find”

9:30 am. at St. Paul Church

Midweek Lenten Services – “The Hand of the Lord”

A joint worship service between St. Paul and St. Mark's Lutheran Churches

Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm at St. Mark's

Join us for the soup supper prior to worship, 5:15-6:45 pm.