

# Celebration of Members

## February Birthdays

Birthday Wishes to the following people celebrating 80 years of life or more!

- |                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 - Ila Nelson - 83       | 16 - Sharon Van Lengen - 84 |
| 2 - Ray Scholl - 81       | 19 - Elmer Murman - 91      |
| 3 - Gloria Mills - 86     | 19 - Tom Shane - 80         |
| 4 - Duan Bohlen - 85      | 22 - Barb Hinrichs - 81     |
| 5 - Larry Wilson - 82     | 26 - JoAnne Thomas - 80     |
| 9 - LaVerna Petzoldt - 86 | 27 - Aletha Bennett - 93    |
| 11 - Betty Magee - 98     | 27 - Elvera Winbolt - 89    |

## March Birthdays

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2 - Ardyce Biede - 89  | 20 - Norma Penning - 93 |
| 3 - Mary Wood - 86     | 21 - Helena Wilson - 80 |
| 7 - Lucille Watts - 85 | 26 - Philip Sweet - 86  |
| 15 - Nina Jensen - 105 | 27 - Larry Schnase - 89 |
| 15 - Wayne Timm - 84   |                         |

## April Birthdays

- |                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 4 - Jeanette Grothen - 88 | 13 - Dr. Nancy Krueger - 82 |
| 4 - Dixie Hutchison - 85  | 15 - Ilene Weber - 87       |
| 5 - Janice Lukas - 82     | 17 - Morris Lewis - 90      |
| 6 - Neil Grothen - 80     | 18 - Regina Lucas - 106     |
| 7 - Evelyn Theisen - 89   | 20 - Elizabeth Classen - 82 |
| 8 - Weir John - 92        | 20 - Colleen Hohlen - 91    |
| 8 - Helen Miller - 89     | 27 - Gordon Sinner - 90     |
| 12 - Roma Moul - 88       | 28 - Barbara Murman - 89    |

## Journal of Life and Growth

(October 1, 2020—December 31, 2020)

### Transferred to Church Triumphant

- October 6, 2020 - Per Lysthaug  
 October 23, 2020 - Jacqueling Houghtalling  
 October 25, 2020 - Jerry Stromer  
 November 7, 2020 - Rosalie Engelhardt  
 November 9, 2020 - Ordean Dravland  
 November 9, 2020 - Rosemary Peterson  
 November 14, 2020 - Colleen Rippen  
 December 5, 2020 - Patsy Davis  
 December 10, 2020 - Jerrold Mohrlang  
 December 25, 2020 - Jenneth Brown

### Baptisms

- November 27, 2020 - Bo Andrew Elton  
 November 27, 2020 - Brody Johnathan Elton  
 December 8, 2020 - Libby Kay Gerdes

Contact Us! 402.463.1329 | info@firststpauls.org

## February Wedding Anniversaries

With joy & thanksgiving we celebrate the following milestone anniversaries:

- 2 - Gregory and Ann Auten - 1980
- 8 - Thomas and Susan Riggs - 1975
- 12 - John and Patricia Boltz - 1983
- 14 - Victor and Mary Beaty - 1978
- 14 - Robert and Coleen Dygert - 1965
- 14 - Tom and Debra McCoy - 1975
- 15 - Alan and Connie Hoagland - 1975
- 18 - Randy and Kathy Uhrmacher - 1994
- 19 - Daniel and Nancy Yurk - 1977
- 21 - Paul and Jeanette Grothen - 1952
- 22 - Charles and Juanita Sears - 1952
- 24 - Benjamin and Andrea Engel - 1996
- 28 - Matthew and Michelle Roesener - 1992

## March Wedding Anniversaries

- 2 - Richard and LeAnne Blau - 1985
- 10 - Larry and Donna Harrenstein - 1973
- 15 - Ronald and Dena Hohlen - 1986
- 22 - Terry and Jodi Shuck - 1986

## April Wedding Anniversaries

- 6 - Raymond and Joy Marsh - 1974
- 9 - Ronald and Janet Drudik - 1983
- 10 - Dave and Linda Brown - 1976
- 11 - Dennis and Janet Piel - 1981
- 15 - Rodney and Kimberley Hunt - 1989
- 17 - Paul and Shari Brei - 1982
- 17 - Mitchell and Connie Stark - 1982
- 22 - Michael and Lisa Moore - 1995
- 24 - Marlin and Joan Hartman - 1954
- 25 - Mike and Caprice Lueth - 1992
- 28 - James and Janice Lukas - 1963
- 30 - Robert and Amy Stutesman - 1994

**GIVE ONLINE OR  
AUTO WITHDRAWAL**

Would you like to simplify your giving to the ministry of First St. Paul's? We have an app for that!

Contact Dee Kohmetscher to learn about EasyTithe or Auto Withdrawal options.

**Communion:**  
**Saturday - 6:00 p.m.**  
**February 6 & March 6 & April 3**  
**(Traditional)**

**Sunday - 8:25 a.m.**  
**February 7 & March 7 & April 4**  
**(Traditional)**

**Sunday - 10:35 a.m.**  
**February 21 & March 21 & April 18**  
**(Contemporary)**

**Easter Sunday**  
**All Services**

\*\* Drive-thru Communion available after all services\*\*

**Worship**



FIRST ST. PAUL'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Vol. 85

# First Connections

"United, we live God's will."

No. 2, 3 & 4

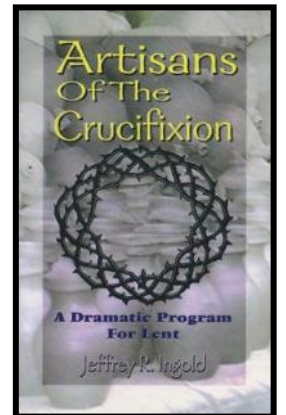
February/March/April 2021



Dear First St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

As we continue to navigate our way through the COVID-19 pandemic and the unrest in our country after the presidential election, take comfort in Psalm 46: 5: "God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn." He is our ever present help in time of trouble. When we call out to Him, our faith will grow in the knowledge of His assurance that we will enter the kingdom of heaven someday.

Meanwhile, Lent is just a few weeks away, beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. There will be two services, 12: 10 p.m. and 7: 00 p.m. For this season, the First St. Paul's Ministry team will present dramatic monologues complete with costumes, to provide a unique perspective of the events of Jesus' crucifixion. Viewed through the eyes of a Blacksmith, Carpenter, Stone Mason, Tanner, and Basket Maker, the presentations introduce the congregation to those who crafted the whip, wove the crown of thorns, forged the nails, constructed the cross, and chiseled out the tomb. During Holy Week, a soldier who stood guard at the cross will also share his viewpoint as a witness of the death of Jesus. (Yes, Pastor Joel will be the soldier!)



In addition to worship services, we will offer a modified Ichthus schedule. Preschool-Grade 8 Confirmation programs will continue from 6: 00-6: 45 p.m. Grades 7 and 8 will attend the Lenten service as a requirement for Confirmation. The eighth graders will be involved in assisting the services with Pastor Joel.

We invite you to bring in non-perishable food items for the Food Pantry to stock the shelves and partner with local organizations meeting food needs in our community. Judas Purse offerings will provide an opportunity to partner with Navajo Nation who have had extremely high COVID-19 numbers. The Navajo Nation has reported a total of more than 26,500 COVID-19 cases and more than 920 virus-related deaths. Our Junior High Confirmation class traveled to this area for their mission trip in the summer of 2018. Please use the purple Judas purse bag and calendar to support this mission throughout Lent. We encourage you to also read along with the Lenten reading plan included in this packet. All Lenten services will be available in-person and live streamed online. We invite you to join us in making a difference locally and globally through the generous giving of food items and Judas Purse offerings. We look forward to the season of Lent as a contemplative time of prayer and worship as we approach the suffering of Christ on our behalf before Easter. Be sure to read through the newsletter to learn more about opportunities available during the Lenten Season.

In His love,  
Ann Auten

# Lent Connect

## Lent/Easter/ Holy Week

### Ichthus Schedule During Lent

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 12: 10 & 7: 00 p.m. | Lent Starts - Ash Wednesday                                |
| 6: 00 - 6: 45 p.m.  | Pre-K –6th grade activities, Adult Education, Confirmation |
| 7: 00 - 8: 00 p.m.  | Lenten Worship in Sanctuary                                |
| 8: 00 - 9: 00 p.m.  | Soul Café (Sr. High Ministry)                              |

### Holy Week Worship Schedule

|                            |                     |  |
|----------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Palm Saturday, March 27th  | 6: 00 p.m.          | Traditional Worship                                |
| Palm Sunday, March 28th    | 8: 25 & 10: 35 a.m. | Traditional & Contemporary Worship                 |
| Wednesday, March 31st      | 6: 00 p.m.          | Ichthus Activities                                 |
|                            | 7: 00 p.m.          | Traditional Worship in Sanctuary                   |
|                            | 8: 00 p.m.          | Soul Café  |
| Maundy Thursday, April 1st | 4: 00 & 7: 00 p.m.  | Traditional Worship in Sanctuary (First Communion) |
| Good Friday, April 2nd     | 7: 00 p.m.          | Tenebrae Worship in Sanctuary                      |
| Easter Saturday, April 3rd | 10: 00 a.m.         | Easter Egg Hunt in C.C.                            |
|                            | 6: 00 p.m.          | Traditional Worship in Sanctuary                   |
| Easter Sunday, April 4th   | 6: 30 a.m.          | Traditional Sunrise Service                        |
|                            | 9: 00 a.m.          | Contemporary Worship in C.C.                       |
|                            | 10: 00 a.m.         | Traditional Worship in Sanctuary                   |
|                            | 11: 00 a.m.         | Contemporary Worship in C.C.                       |



*Lenten Reading Plan*  
PREPARE FOR EASTER | READ GOD'S WORD

## Who We Are, and Where We're Going...

### Mission, Vision, Commitments and Goals

Our Church Council participated in a council retreat two Sundays in August to begin to revise First St. Paul's mission and vision statements, as well as to create a new organizational chart. As a result, council committees have received new vision, commitments, and goals statements to begin working on our continuing direction at First St Paul's addressing three main areas: Dynamic Worship, Discipleship, and Mission. Our Mission statement remains the same, "United, we live God's will."

#### Mission:

United, we live God's will.

#### Vision:

First St. Paul's Lutheran Church will love God, love one another, and effectively seek to make disciples of all nations. To achieve this, we will lead and share in a ministry that is focused on the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit through the Bible. Our Church will be characterized by ongoing dynamic worship, strategic evangelism, strong relationships, intentional discipleship, spiritual maturity, and generosity. We will be a church where faith is found and where faith is strengthened.

#### Commitments:

At First St. Paul's Lutheran Church, our faith must be a daily discipline that is practiced in our homes, our work, and our world. In our humble walk with God, we are to act justly, extend grace, and embrace people where they are. When we say *I Believe*, we commit ourselves as disciples to:

- Pray daily
- Study scripture daily
- Worship weekly
- Serve the Mission of our Church both in and outside our congregation
- Engage in nurturing relationships
- Give a tithe and beyond

#### Goal:

First St. Paul's Lutheran Church will continuously provide a dynamic worship experience while creating disciples with an emphasis on biblical study and mission.

## Information

### IRA Donations to Charity can be Tax-Free

At age 70 ½ there is an annual "Required Minimum Distribution" from your IRA

Funds must be transferred directly from the IRA to an eligible charity; if you withdraw the money from your IRA and later donate it, it will not qualify as a tax-free qualified charitable distribution.

Ask your IRA administrator what steps you need to take. Procedures can vary from firm to firm.



Hi There, wanting to simplify your giving?

We have an app for that!

Contact the Church Office (402-463-1329) to learn more about EasyTithe or Auto Withdrawl options!

Dear Members of First St. Paul's and Partners with us in the ministry of Christ, A new year is upon us and that means that once again we find ourselves in the throws of winter. I want to say thank you for your faithfulness and generosity over the past year. I am aware that sometimes weather can affect the ability to be physically present at church. However, we hope that you are still able to worship with us via the radio or Facebook livestream. If you aren't able to come to worship physically, we ask that we might continue to remember your gifts, tithes and offerings so that we can continue to provide the ministries of the congregation. As always it is my joy, my honor and my privilege to say that First St. Paul's is where I have been blessed to serve.

In Christ,

Pastor Joel Remmers

# FSP Connect

## Dee, you will be missed!



After 37 years, Dee has resigned from her position at First St. Paul's. She started on October 24, 1983. Her roles included: Secretary/Bookkeeper, Office Manager/Bookkeeper, and Director of Finances. At times, Dee was the first person to take calls for emergencies, deaths, births, engagements, and ministering to those with the need at hand. If you would ask Dee for information regarding a particular member, she would have answer, usually without looking it up! She passionately put the members of First St. Paul's as one of her top priorities. Due to COVID-19, we are unable to have a reception for her at this time, we plan to have a congregational reception at a later date. We thank you for your amazing dedication to First St. Paul's Lutheran Church! God Bless You!

To the Congregation from Dee:

I would like to say thank you to the congregation for making my time at FSP memorable. I have experienced many different ministry and administrative changes over my tenure at First St. Paul's. From coordinating volunteers to working with the homeless. You name, it I have been involved with it in one way or the other!

I started with a typewriter (justifying everything manually), scratch off clip art, Dictaphone, mimeograph, all bookkeeping by hand. Graduated to a copier, no one dictated anymore, the Church Office was given its first computer. Eventually the first Finance/Membership Program was purchased. The programming at First St. Paul's has grown extensively through the years, which grows the duties and the ministries of the staff.

I appreciate the time I have been involved with First St. Paul's members and friends. I will miss the interactions I had the privilege to have with many of you. Mostly, I will miss you! Blessings to All,

Dee



## Welcome Jon Martin!



Jon Martin is married to Judie Martin, and has four children. Jon has worked for First St. Paul's for 13 years and he is now our Facilities Manager. Jon is a member since 1984. Jon's hobbies include fishing, golfing and working out at the YMCA.

## Adult Ministries

**Middle Mixers**

DUE TO COVID-19, MIDDLE MIXERS HOSTS ARE DECIDING MONTHLY ON WHETHER OR NOT THEY WILL BE HOSTING THE MEETING

WATCH YOUR BULLETINS FOR UPDATES

**LCW**

The LCW groups are NOT currently meeting until March 2021. Watch your bulletins for any updates.

**GRIEFSHARE**

GriefShare is currently meeting on Zoom, on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. The videos can be watched on-line after registration on the website at [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org). This series will conclude in mid-April. GriefShare is arranged so that people can enter at anytime during the 13 week series. Anyone who is interested should register on the web site, or call Belva at 402-469-1236.

**KNIT • PRAY • CROCHET**

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK FOR UPDATES!



## Kids Ministries

### First Communion Retreat / Seder Meal



On Saturday, March 20th, all 5th graders are invited to attend the First Communion Retreat. 6th graders who did not attend the retreat last fall and would like to receive communion, please also plan to attend. They will spend the day with Pastor Joel learning about the history of the Passover and how it is related to the sacrament of Holy Communion today. The retreat will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the Christian Underground and participants are asked to bring a sack lunch and something to drink.

At 5:00 p.m., parents, siblings, and grandparents are invited to join their child for the Seder Meal, held in the Celebration Center. We also invite 6th grade families who did not have the opportunity to attend a Seder Meal. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this plan will be tentative, but we do hope to celebrate the Seder Meal safely through careful planning using CDC guidelines. This special event is designed to give 5th graders the experience of the Passover meal tradition. Postcard reminders will be sent out in the mail. Please contact the Church Office to RSVP for both the retreat and the Seder Meal. The 5th graders will receive their first communion as part of the Maundy Thursday Service on April 1st at 7:00 p.m.

### Easter Egg Hunt

It's the season of Lent, which means Easter will follow! The well-loved tradition of our church's Easter Egg Hunt will continue with a few COVID-19 restrictions. We love this day, filled with candy, children's laughter, and a great message of Jesus amidst the excitement! We will share more information about the hunt when the date moves closer. Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 3rd at 10:00 a.m.



**PRESS PLAY** VBS - June 7-11, 2020  
GET IN THE MIX "Press Play- Get in the Mix!"

## Youth Ministries

### Confirmation During Lent



**7th Grade**

During Lent, we will begin our exploration of the New Testament. One of our goals is to memorize the Books of the Bible and we are rockin' it! We hope to have a parent open house after Lent to share our journey! 7th grade will attend Lenten Services together. We will sit in the balcony of the Sanctuary.

### 8th Grade

8th Grade continue their catechetical studies and are looking forward to serving as assistants during Lenten Services with Pastor Joel. Eighth grade will sit in the choir loft. The date for the Confirmation Service will be



**April 25th, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.**

### Seniors: Save the Date

Senior Recognition will be Sunday, May 16th at the Service of your choice. This is a special day for Seniors and their parents. Contact the Church Office to let us know which service you plan to attend for your recognition.



### Soul Cafe



Each week, we invite Senior High Youth to join us in the Christian Underground for worship, teaching and community, all for the glory of God! Watch Snapchat and Instagram for updates about events, series and more.

**FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP**

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL QUALIFYING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS. PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR APPLICATION INFORMATION

# Kids & Youth