



# St. Paul Lutheran

March 2024 NEWSLETTER

## From the Pastor:

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

You know what they always say about March. It comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. March is a hopeful month where we all look forward to the warmer temperatures, sunnier days, and the disappearance of snow. Say what you will about your favorite season, but there's no doubt that we all love spring and the changes it brings.

In the same way, we progress through our Church year. There's really no better analogy of the major change we experience than with the changing seasons. We begin March still in the depths of Lent. Our focus is on our mourning over sin and seeing how much chaos and darkness it brings into our life. We know that life is unpredictable. It's a rollercoaster of the ups and downs we experience.

The key to enduring both of these seasons is hope. In winter, we have hope that it will eventually give way to spring. In Lent, we have hope that Easter is just around the corner. Lent is so much more than a penitential season. It's penitential for sure, but for the purpose of pushing us back onto the hope that we have. Lent seeks to strip away all the crutches we've gathered for ourselves, all the false supports we've built up, so that we can lean on the only one we need. For the devil still prowls around like a roaring lion (1 Peter 5:8). Life can still hit us hard and toss us into chaos.

No matter how the lion rears his ugly head, we must hold on to the hope we've been given. There might be some cold, dark days ahead still. It's certainly possible (and in Wisconsin, still likely!). Yet, we can't tackle any problem we face without hope. Hope is what motivates us, what keeps our eyes up, and our feet pushing forward. So shall we deal with all our problems. We must hold onto hope... hope that things will be better, hope that change is on the horizon, hope in Christ.

We will certainly come into this month like a lion. We'll hear the devil roar and taunt us. He'll do all he can to keep us in the dark. But this is the month where we go to the darkest day. We go where the sun is hidden and death reigns. We'll go to the cross of Jesus. Yet, it's there where we will say, **"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"** **John 1:29.** Behold the Lamb! The Lamb who quiets all our fears. The Lamb who silences the lion. The Lamb who has paid for all our sins and lives victoriously over death! From the darkness of death, the Lamb of God shall lead us forth to brighter and better days. Alleluia!

Pastor Sorenson



## Happy Birthday!



Precelia Dahn— 3/9  
Patricia Dahn— 3/10  
Donna Miller— 3/14  
John Williamson— 3/22  
Marlene Hurst— 3/26  
Sandra Schlueter— 3/26  
Thelma Lokken— 3/31

## Altar Flowers



**March 3-** (None)  
**March 10-** (None)  
**March 17—** Rick and Berta Nelson  
for their 46th anniversary  
**March 24—** John and Linda Wil-  
liamson for John's birthday  
**March 31-** Easter Flowers

## St Paul Online:

Visit our website: [www.stpaulmadison.org](http://www.stpaulmadison.org)



Facebook— @StPaulMadisonLCMS

YouTube— St Paul Lutheran Church  
(services and sermons online)



Note: You do NOT have to have an account in order to view these pages.

## Contact us

St Paul Office— 608-244-8077  
office@stpaulmadison.org  
Pastor Sorenson (Cell) 317-690-5204  
pastorsorenson@stpaulmadison.org

### Serving in March

#### Altar Guild

Luanne Rommel & Linda Williamson

#### Tellers

John & Linda Williamson

#### Ushers

#### **March 3-**

Jerry Meise, Jamie Meise, Dan Dierks

#### **March 10-**

Richard Beal, Randy Buss, Tom Niemczyk

#### **March 17-**

Rick Van Dusen, Ray Hellmer, Leo Lakpa

#### **March 24-**

Jerry Meise, Jamie Meise, Dan Dierks

#### **March 31-**

Richard Beal, Randy Buss, Tom Niemczyk

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**March 10-** Daylight Savings time begins!

**March 17-** Leadership Meeting

**March 26-** Vets' Connect

**March 28-** Maundy Thursday

**March 31-** Easter Sunday (Extended Coffee Hour)

### **We Need You!**

The Leadership Board is soliciting candidates to serve on the Board for the term of July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026.



**I WANT YOU** 608-212-9201.

If you are interested in serving, please talk to Executive Director Linda Williamson or call/text her at

### **Matching Funds Offering**

A member of our congregation has offered to make a "Matching Funds" donation of up to \$5,000. This donation is being made to inspire all of us to "match" this \$5,000 by making contributions, totaling another \$5,000, that are above and beyond our usual weekly and monthly contributions.

The "Matching Funds" campaign will run from now until Sunday May 26, 2024. Please prayerfully consider making a "Matching Funds" donation before May 26th.

**Update as of 2/29/2024:**

Goal:	\$5,000.00
Raised:	\$610.00



### **Easter Extended Coffee Hour**

Easter is here! We will once again be holding an extended coffee hour from 8am-9:30am on March 31 for Easter. If you are interested in making something for the morning, a sign up list will be available on the bulletin board.

### **Lost and Found!**

A New Lost and Found has been established in the Church office. For ease of returning items to their owners, please bring lost items to the office or come see if someone has found something you lost.

## **St Paul Financial Update**

### **GENERAL FUND INCOME AND EXPENSES**

February 2024 Actual Income	\$15,879.22
February 2024 Actual Expenses	\$19,768.01
February 2024 Net	<b>-\$3,888.79</b>

### **DEBT**

Unpaid Balance on Mortgage Loan (2/29/2024) \$162,501.56

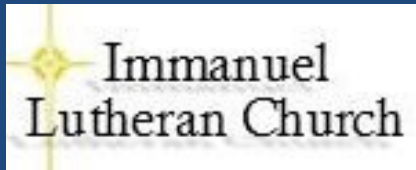
**Take Note**

Please send any items you'd like mentioned in our monthly newsletter to the office at [office@stpaulmadison.org](mailto:office@stpaulmadison.org), or please call the office at 608-244-8077.

**ALL NEWSLETTER ITEMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE LAST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH.**

Thank you for your help!

# LCMS Madison Church Partnership



## Lent & Easter 2024

Our Lenten midweek series carries us through into Holy Week. Come and join us as we prepare for Easter and hear the "Sounds of the Passion".

March 6– Tramping Feet  
March 13– Crowing Rooster  
March 20– Shouting Mob

March 28– (*Maundy Thursday*)– Chewing Food  
March 29– (*Good Friday*)– Pounding Nails  
March 31– (*Easter*)– Scraping Rocks

### Joint Good Friday

We will be holding a joint Good Friday service this year to be hosted by Monona Lutheran Church. Pastor Sorenson will be preaching, with Pastor Erdman and Pastor Nowak assisting.

Monona Lutheran Church  
4411 Monona Dr, Monona, WI 53716  
**Service to be held at 1pm**

## All Congregations Meeting

We have all been enjoying getting to know members of our partner churches through our shared Lent and other events. However, we know that services don't always give us the chance to sit and talk as we would like. Thus, we're looking toward taking the next step in our walk together. Immanuel will be hosting an **All Partnership Congregations meeting on April 14 at 12pm**. A *light* lunch will be provided with thanks to Chick-Fil-a for donating food for our gathering.

In addition to getting to know one another better, we will be having two special guests who have played a key role in helping us build this partnership together. Rev. Nathan Meador, the Mission Executive for the South Wisconsin District (SWD) of the LCMS, will be in attendance to share with us his expertise and interest in seeing this partnership thrive. The SWD is helping in fund the cost of a counselor/advisor to aid us.



Larry Ulrich, a consultant from Generis, is who we (as a partnership) are looking to hire. Larry worked in marketing and sales management for 25 years. After this, he has sought to use his gifts and talents for the betterment of the church. Larry has aided numerous congregations (LCMS and WELS) in transformative changes to utilize their resources wisely leading to growth and stability in the church. More information concerning Larry Ulrich and Generis can be found here (<https://resources.generis.com/team/larry-ulrich>).

Come and join us and see  
what great things the Lord has in store!

## Upcoming Dates:

March 10 (1:30pm)- Partnership Council  
(St. Paul)  
March 29 (1:00pm)- Joint Good Friday Service  
(Monona)  
April 14 (12:00pm)- All Congregations Meeting  
(Immanuel)