

# ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Maryville, TN

## THE GOOD NEWS

### March 2020 Edition



## Lenten SOUP Suppers

Wednesday Evening's ~ 5:55pm  
March 4th - April 1st

Soup served 5:55pm - 6:20pm

Everyone is invited to attend and enjoy a simple meal before the mid-week Lent service. Soup and bread will be provided by Rene Zimmer. Members are asked to help only with clean-up\* as indicated below.

Rotation of responsibilities is alphabetically by last name.

March ~ 3/4 A-L \* 3/11 M-Z \* 3/18 A-L \* 3/25 M-Z  
April ~ 4/1 A-Z

\*Clean-up entails: placing remaining soup in freezable containers, washing; soup kettles, utensils and storing items for future use, cleaning tables, and taking out the trash.

### Worship Times

Sunday Morning  
8:00 am & 10:30 am

Sunday School  
9:15am

### Contact Us

Pastor: *The Rev. Rick Ohsiek*

Phone: 865-982-4285

Fax: 865-977-8070

Email: [office@stpaulmaryville.org](mailto:office@stpaulmaryville.org)

Web: [www.stpaulmaryville.org](http://www.stpaulmaryville.org)

### Church Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs 8:30am-5:00pm



## PASTOR AND CHURCH COUNCIL

### A Message from Pastor Rick:

I've been reading a really good book recently called

*Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved* by Kate Bowler.

Without giving the whole story away, the book centers on the author's battle with cancer and how her diagnosis caused her to question some of faith.

The book reminds me some of the saying I wish we would remove from our conversations with people.

Number one on my list is, "*Everything happens for a reason.*" I'm sure you have either uttered this phrase or had someone utter it around you. People use this phrase in an effort to make some positive out of a bad situation. Implied in this is a very specific understanding of how God interacts with the world. Specifically, it says God directs all things. So, mass murders? God had a reason for that senseless act of violence. Stubbing your toe on the door frame? I guess God wanted to smite your toe. I really despise it when people say this after a tragedy like a child's death or a horrible medical diagnosis.

This way of seeing God turns us all into puppets — God's little play things who really have no freewill.

Do you truly think a god needs toys? If so, do you really think we're the best toys God could make?

Along those same lines, people often try to comfort a grieving person by saying, "*God needed another angel*" or even "*I guess it was time for God to call them home.*" God loves you and your family. God does not want you to rip your heart out by taking away someone you love.

"*God never gives us more than we can handle.*" Ever tried saying this to a person contemplating suicide? No? Well, of course not. Why? Because it is just wrong. It's wrong because factual circumstances of living prove that sometimes this life does bring with it more than we can handle. It's also wrong because God is not the source of the bad things that happen to us in this world.

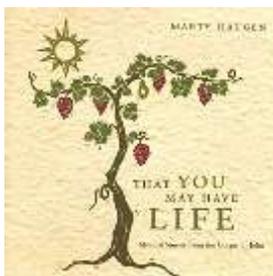
"*I must be living right.*" Have you ever been riding in a car when the driver pulls into a parking space right in front of the store and proclaims, "I must be living right!"? Sure, they are half joking but keep in mind it's only *half* joking. Statements like this have their roots in that nasty "everything happens for a reason" thinking. These are the same folks who ask God to help them win sporting events. I hate to burst the bubble, but God doesn't care which team wins or how close to the store entrance you get to park your car. When you say things like this, what are you saying about the folks who had to park in that very last spot next to the shopping cart return where the car doors get all dinged up? And for that matter, if you are "living right," why didn't *you* take that spot and leave the one up front for someone else?

One more for you to ponder: "*Because the Bible tells me so (or "it's in the Bible")*." The King James Bible tells me there are unicorns – 9 times. There are mistranslations in scripture and many verses that people take out of context to make some crazy point. Always be careful before saying this phrase.

I'm sure I could find a few more winners (or losers) if I tried hard enough. The best advice for us is to just to think a little bit more before we speak. The implications of our words might come out as something we did not intend.

Peace,

Pastor Rick



### Mid-week Lenten Reflection

Wednesdays;  
March 4th– April 1st

**Noon & 6:30pm**

2020 Lenten offering will go to

*WELCA Thankofferings*

Thankofferings are a long-standing custom among Lutheran women, go to page 4 to read more about it.

## PASTOR AND CHURCH COUNCIL

### A Message from the Council President

#### Forty Days – Forty Items

Ash Wednesday, February 26, is the first day of Lent.

#### **I have a challenge for you!**

On each day of Lent, remove one item from your closet that you no longer wear or need and put it into a trash bag. At the end of forty days, donate these items to the Habitat ReStore. The ReStore sells donated items at reduced prices and uses the proceeds to build affordable housing in our community. It provides items to clients of other community agencies like Good Neighbors, Family Promise, Red Cross, and Haven House.

#### **Are you up to the challenge?**

Share this with your friends and support this important ministry in our community.

Peace,

Warren Bielenberg, Council President



### Special Event Sunday MARCH 29th

The ELCA, through the ELCA Foundation, offers Gift Planning assistance to congregations and congregation members. On March 29, St. Paul will begin exploring this opportunity with Chris Burnette, our ELCA Regional Gift Planner. Chris will present a Temple Talk at each service to explain some of the ways he can help St. Paul and individual members.

**Following the second service we will have a lunch and additional time to learn more from Chris.**

**All are welcome to the lunch**, but we ask that you sign up on the sheet located near the kitchen, so we know how much food to prepare.

Chris has significant experience in financial planning but working for the ELCA he *is not selling anything*. He has 2 goals: to help congregations be ready to accept special gifts from members (including through their estates after death) AND to work with individuals to ensure that any gifts they wish to make will be handled according to what they intend. There is no cost to either St. Paul or individuals to have conversations with Chris. Come to worship on March 29, and hear Chris's temple talk.



### **Please consider designating your Thrivent Choice Dollars to St Paul Lutheran Church** or your favorite charity.

The deadline for designating funds is March 31 and can be done online or by calling Thrivent.

#### **Online**

1. Visit [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice).
2. In the Direct Choice Dollars section on the right, click "Get started now."
3. Log in, enter your user ID and password, and answer your security question.
4. Find the number of Choice Dollars available to direct.
5. Locate the organization to which you want to direct Choice Dollars:
  - a. To direct to a previous organization:
    - Click "Direct Now" next to the organization's name, or
    - Click on the "View activity history" link, scroll down and click on the name of the desired organization.
  - b. To direct to a new organization, enter keyword(s) like organization name, ZIP code, cause, etc. Click "Search."
6. Choose "Direct All" or enter a specific number and click "Direct Now." Follow the prompts on the confirmation page to direct Choice Dollars

#### **By phone**

1. Call 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice®." A representative will work with you to direct Choice Dollars.
2. Press 1 to direct Choice Dollars (If prompted, say or enter your phone number and date of birth.)



## Thankofferings: history

The idea of collecting donations in small offering boxes goes back to the very early 1800s, when women formed “mite” or “cent” societies to raise money. Mite boxes were given out as fundraising tools to collect pennies for the support of church projects and foreign missionaries.

These women-led cent societies, platforms for social activism as well as evangelism in the 19th century, published their own literature, Bible studies and other materials advocating around issues such as child labor, literacy and prison reform. In time, larger missionary and ladies aid societies developed out of this work because there was such an overwhelming demand not only for foreign missionary support but for support at home. These women’s groups funded needs in their local churches as well as local community projects. Their capacity for fundraising was acknowledged and generally welcomed by their congregations.

Today, Women of the ELCA collects more than \$1 million in Thankofferings annually for the ministries and mission of our women’s organization. Thankofferings show gratitude for God’s blessings and give us an important and tangible way to express that gratitude. It is a tradition grounded in our celebration of community, of meeting together to joyfully give thanks for what God has given us. Thankofferings have always been, and still are, our opportunity to say thank you to God in both significant and ordinary moments. Read more at <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/thankofferings>

## Ladies Group Monthly Meeting

**2<sup>nd</sup> Monday** of every month

Room #8

**1:00pm**

*ALSO*

### Weekly Wednesday Bible Study ~ 10:30am

All women of the church are invited to join us.

**Thank you to all the ladies that made our BOLD Women Sunday such a success this year...**

### Monday, March 9th at church at 1:00 p.m.

We will be assembling flower boxes for the Fellowship Hall a short business meeting will follow.

## WELCA Cluster #6 Meeting

**Saturday, March 28th** from 10AM-3PM

*Grace Lutheran Church 131 West Gettysburg Avenue, Oak Ridge TN*

THEME: Jars of Clay

Lunch will be provided.

Carpooling is being organized leaving church at 9:00 See St. Paul's WELCA Bulletin Board for registration forms

Any questions call Patty Harmon 865 399 9850 or Ann Munson 386 631 3967

# SEASON OF HOPE

## Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kit Collection <https://lwr.org/personalcarekits> March 1st- April 5th

This Lent, we’re joining Lutheran World Relief in A SEASON OF HOPE to announce to the world the HOPE of Christ. Each week, we’ll collect a different item that we’ll use to assemble Personal Care Kits that give people around the world tools to stay healthy in life’s most challenging situations. The chart below gives our timeline for collections, but feel free to bring the items listed anytime during Lent.

WELCA will be gathering the items and lead us in a “packing” celebration to be announced at a later date.

### We hope to collect 75 kits during the season of Lent.

*Please leave donations at the display in the Welcome Center.*

**MARCH 1** ~ Bars of Soap (4 to 5 oz., individually wrapped original wrapping, prefer unscented)

**MARCH 8** ~ Bath Towels (light-weight, maximum 52” x 27”, dark color recommended)

**MARCH 15** ~Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)

**MARCH 22** ~ Combs (prefer wide toothed)

**MARCH 29** ~ Nail Clippers (metal, attached file optional)

**APRIL 5 (PALM SUNDAY)**~Bars of Soap



Lutheran World Relief

# PARISH LIFE

Barb Miller - Coordinator



Adults 55+

**Tuesday, March 17th**  
**NOON**

Our program will be presented by Jean Beck, "The Jingle Belle". Lunch will be from Honey Baked Ham at a cost of \$10 a person or you may bring your own. Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the kitchen by Sunday, March 15.



**Days for Girls**  
**will meet again** on  
the first Wednesday  
of the month.

**March 4th ~ 2:00pm**

We will need both sergers and sewing machines this time, with dark colored thread for both. Please join us for fellowship and the satisfaction of working on an important project. the kits. Bring scissors if you can.



**SPECIAL EVENT ~ Thursday, March 12th**  
**7:00pm**

Men in Mission is hosting a special event for the congregation. Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Tom Werkema will be our guest speaker. He received this award in 2009 for his research on "Climate Change".

He is a resident of Blount County and will present a program on:

***What we know, what we think we know, and what we don't know about climate change.***

The Men's Group is excited to have him as our program and want to invite everyone to come and enjoy this evening with us.

Tom Sims President Men in Mission [tom0884@att.net](mailto:tom0884@att.net)

# SERVING

Volunteer Needed - Coordinator



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN  
MINISTRY**

It was just a year ago that St. Paul commissioned its first class of Stephen Ministers. Perhaps you are still wondering what those folks do.

Anyone in the congregation can request the assistance of a Stephen Minister when going through tough times. You can even request a Stephen Minister for a friend or relative who doesn't belong to St. Paul.

The Stephen Minister will meet with you on approximately a weekly basis, just to talk. The Stephen Minister will not solve your problems, but gives you a listening ear to bounce ideas off and to just give you a chance to vent. The 50 hours of Stephen Ministry training was focused on listening. Whatever you discuss with your Stephen Minister remains confidential. Their job is to listen, not to judge. If you think a Stephen Minister might be helpful, talk to Pastor Rick to request one.



**Family Promise<sup>®</sup>**  
of Blount County

**HOST WEEK**  
**March 1st-8th**

Help is especially needed for overnight and Saturday hosts. Talk with Marianne Searfoss or Merl Krull for more information about the Family Promise ministry and how it helps homeless families in Blount County.



**You may take a shawl at any time** to give to a friend, loved one or neighbor. They are located in the narthex on a quilt rack under the prayer board.

ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

**Note: If you are unable to serve when scheduled, please find a replacement for that Sunday.**

Duties	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
	8 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	8 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	8 a.m.
Assistant Minister	Jean Beck	Susan Ward	Joel Searfoss	Art Hafner	Marsha Bryant
Communion Assistants	Betty Ludwig Marianne Searfoss	Merl Krull	Betty Ludwig Nan Wylie	Marianne Searfoss Steve Zrioka	Susan Ward
Lector	Warren Bielenberg	Merl Krull	Will Ludwig	Marianne Searfoss	Susan Ward
Ushers	Bertha Franks Bob Trosen	Herb Perry James McMillon Denny Mansmith	Greg Wyatt Bertha Franks	Betty and Will Ludwig	Herb Perry Bob Ullom Lind Ullom
Altar Guild	Jackie Kreider	Kris Zimmer	Suzanne Bielenberg	Bertha Franks	Kris Zimmerman
Acolyte /Crucifer		Drew Ohsiek	Kajler McMillion	Nathan Rundle	Hannah Rundle
Nursery		Jody Ohsiek Hannah Rundle	Kara Birdwell Drew Ohsiek	Sue Tyler Alyssa Rundle	Marianne Searfoss Darlan Lindquist
Greeters	Norma Watson	Anna Judway	Heinz and Shirley Lips	Ann Hall	Theлма Fastner
Sound Room	Joel Searfoss	Will Ludwig	Greg Caldwell	Steve Zrioka	Will Ludwig
Tellers	Carolyn Speck John Beck	Warren Bielenberg Joel Searfoss	Herb Perry James McMillion	John Walker Jim Weeks	Dee Dee Walker Kris Zimmer

# FELLOWSHIP

- Coordinator

## 10:30 Service Fellowship Teams

<b>March 1</b>	Jacqueline Conzemius, David & Charlene Dubs
<b>March 8</b>	Darla & Brian Kaufman, Marsha Wynn, Teena Conrady
<b>March 15</b>	Lorraine Geary, Sue Stauffer, Dorine Keeble, Patty Harmon
<b>March 22</b>	Anna Judway, Bob & Linda Ullom
<b>March 29</b>	Tom & Anne Sims, Kris & Rene Zimmer

*Each team is responsible for providing a light snack, setting up and cleaning up the Fellowship time after the 10:30 service.*



## MARCH Birthdays & Anniversaries



### BIRTHDAYS

March 3	Susan Ward
March 5	Ethel Hartley
March 6	Nancy Gill
March 8	Gloria Leonard
March 11	Bernie Codding
March 11	Merl Krull
March 12	Greg Caldwell
March 15	Eric Walker

March 16	Alice Mansmith
March 17	Jaelee Johnson
March 20	Bob Trosen
March 20	Teddy Joyal
March 20	Dorothy Martin
March 20	Carolyn Glein
March 21	Kathy Rokavec
March 22	Joe Clark
March 23	Jim Hall
March 23	Roy Johnson
March 24	Bud Muly
March 26	Darian Lindquist
March 27	Gene Frye
March 27	Neenah Dressler
March 31	Susan Rothe

### ANNIVERSARIES

<b>March 6</b>	Janice & Floyd Hoover
<b>March 12</b>	John & Dee Dee Walker
<b>March 18</b>	Dave & Charlene Dubs
<b>March 24</b>	Bonnie & Randy Finn



# ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH



429 Sandy Springs Road  
Maryville, TN 37803

*Sharing Christ's Love  
With the World*

The St. Paul Church Council meets monthly on the third Monday ~ 7:00pm

**Warren Bielenberg -President**

[web9272@msn.com](mailto:web9272@msn.com)

**Merl Krull – Vice President**

[merlinkrull@gmail.com](mailto:merlinkrull@gmail.com)

**Brooke Nowak - Council Secretary -**

[ballerinab183@hotmail.com](mailto:ballerinab183@hotmail.com)

**Susan Ward - Treasurer**

[splctreasurer7@gmail.com](mailto:splctreasurer7@gmail.com)

**Teena Conrady - [c\\_teena@hotmail.com](mailto:c_teena@hotmail.com)**

**Zach Gordon - [zgordon@k12.com](mailto:zgordon@k12.com)**

**David Silseth - [drsilset@gmail.com](mailto:drsilset@gmail.com)**



**Beth Drane - [Tenneliz2000@yahoo.com](mailto:Tenneliz2000@yahoo.com)**

**Ed Martin - [emartin81@yahoo.com](mailto:emartin81@yahoo.com)**

**Heather Wright – [heatherlewright@gmail.com](mailto:heatherlewright@gmail.com)**

## **Dates of Interest**

*Check Calendar for times and places*

### **Council:**

Sunday, March 16th ~ Council Meeting

### **Discipleship:**

Sundays ~ Youth Group

### **Parish Life:**

Monday, March 9th ~ WELCA Meeting

Thursday, March 12th & 26th ~ Creative Hands

Tuesday, March 17th ~ SPAM

Thursday, March 26th ~ Peace by Piece Quilters

### **Serving:**

Thursday, March 5th & 19th ~ Prayer Shawl Ministry

### **Worship:**

Wednesdays ~ Mid-week Lent Service

Sunday, March 8th ~ **Daylight Savings Time begins**

### **Fellowship:**

Wednesday ~ Lent Soup Supper