



## From the Desk of Pastor Meyer

I have always enjoyed the season of Lent. It's a pious, somber season recalling Christ's suffering and death and acknowledging that our own sins caused Christ to become the sacrificial Lamb of God. I remember, as a boy, sitting next to my dad, brother and sisters, listening to the Passion Narrative being read, and singing the theologically dense hymns with heavy, rich melodies and harmonies. That might sound contrary – rejoicing in the “weight” of the season that marks suffering and death – but there is much to rejoice about, even if it is a subdued joy.

One of the traditional themes of Lent is that of repentance. Repentance often has an unpleasant connotation, giving one the idea that we have to walk around, mopey and down like Eeyore. This is not necessarily so. Repentance is the recognition that we have sinned against God and our neighbors and the realization that those sins deserve the fulness of God's wrath. But Christian repentance does not stop at sorrow. Repentance also trusts the promise of God that, in Christ, our sins are fully forgiven. Repentance leads, then, to joy!

This Lententide, our midweek theme focuses on “God's Gift of Forgiveness.” Using some of the Penitential Psalms, we are contemplating what repentance looks like and God's faithful response of taking our sins from us through the merits of the death of His Son, Jesus. This began on Ash Wednesday and concludes with Good Friday.

With the focus on forgiveness, it is possible that you will remember sins that still trouble you from your past. Guilt and shame may bubble up into your mind. If you find this happening to you, I'll be available after the midweek services for private confession and absolution. I'll remain vested in the sacristy (the room to the left of the altar) with the door open. Come in and close the door behind you. If the door is closed, please step away and wait for the door to open. I'm also available any time for this rite during the week. We can do this in my office, go into the sanctuary, or even meet in the privacy of your home. God's gift has no boundary.

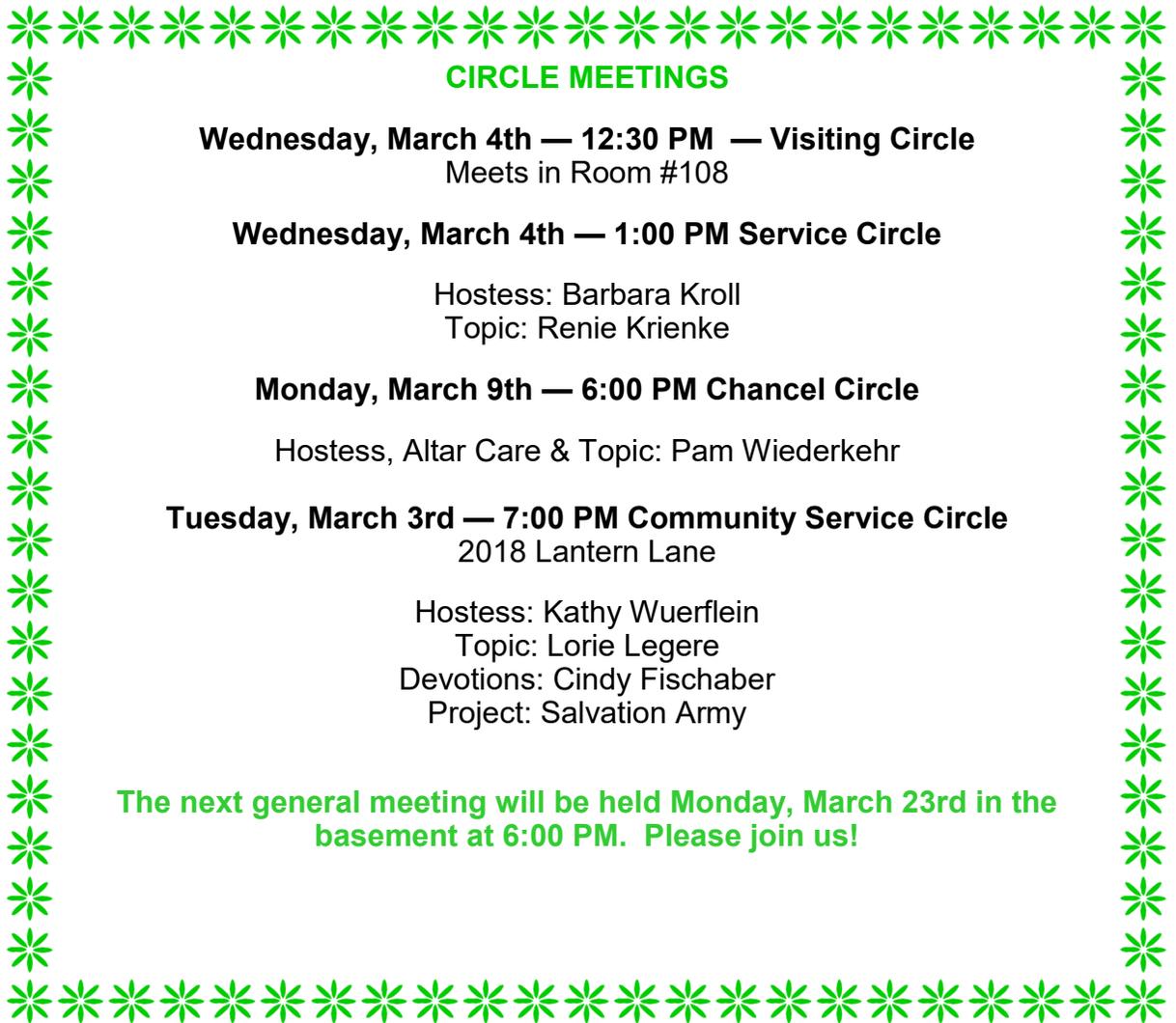
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**CIRCLE MEETINGS**

**Wednesday, March 4th — 12:30 PM — Visiting Circle**  
Meets in Room #108

**Wednesday, March 4th — 1:00 PM Service Circle**

Hostess: Barbara Kroll  
Topic: Renie Krienke

**Monday, March 9th — 6:00 PM Chancel Circle**

Hostess, Altar Care & Topic: Pam Wiederkehr

**Tuesday, March 3rd — 7:00 PM Community Service Circle**  
2018 Lantern Lane

Hostess: Kathy Wuerflein  
Topic: Lorie Legere  
Devotions: Cindy Fischaber  
Project: Salvation Army

**The next general meeting will be held Monday, March 23rd in the basement at 6:00 PM. Please join us!**

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**The special Commemorative postage stamps you have been sending in will go towards missions so keep them coming!!**

**CELL PHONES, INK CARTRIDGES, COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS**

LWML thanks you for helping us recycle these items. Currently, we only take HP and Canon ink cartridges. (You could put your cartridge in plastic baggie if it is leaking).



Chancel Circle welcomes donations of living flowers and plants for the worship services. Let the church office (580) 234-6646 know the date you would like to provide them. Also, include the instructions after they are used for worship.

**The LWML is looking for a volunteer who is willing to donate the Easter Lilies.**

**If you are interested, please call the office.**



# ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

This page will be dedicated for our members who have their own business and would like to put the word out about it. If you are in the need of any type of service please check out this page first to see if there is a member that can provide the service to you. Let's join together to help support each other!



## Jenny Smithson—Broker Associate

Lippard Realty

1102 W. Broadway Ave. Enid, OK, 73703  
Cell: 580-747-6225

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Stephanie Herbst DDS  
Dennis Morehart DDS  
2411 Heritage Trail #4  
Enid, Oklahoma 73703  
(580) 237-2213

“Give us a call if you are looking for a dental home!”



Elder assignments for this year are as follows:

Gene Hollrah 580-234-9586  
Jonathan Becker 817-939-5190  
Rick Lunday 580-603-0814  
James Wuerflein 580-541-5439  
Ron Young 580-747-1356  
Paul Dunbar 580-233-6063  
Gene Breitenkamp 580-541-9323

Adasiak—Clark  
Cole—Fisher  
Fleischmann—Hoeltzel  
Holland—Lieswald  
Light—Nolte  
Otipoby—Smithson  
Snowden—Zoch

Please contact your elder if there is anything he could do to help serve you.





# THRIVENT FINANCIAL®

Financial Professional Bob Morgenthaler is the Thrivent representative for Enid. He is available for questions or concerns you have on your insurance and investments products. Bob has been with Thrivent for 21 years. The office is located at 201 N Grand Ave, on the Northeast corner of Randolph and Grand. The office is Suite #510. Please call ahead to schedule appointments at 918-406-7029. You may also email at [bob.morgenthaler@thrivent.com](mailto:bob.morgenthaler@thrivent.com).

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**NEW WAY TO GIVE:** You may now give tithes and offerings online through our website. Just visit [www.stpaulsenid.com](http://www.stpaulsenid.com) and select online giving on the home page. You can also text **SPLC** (888) 444-8774. You can also scan:



### Choice Dollars!

Be sure to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars before the March 31st deadline! If you need assistance, feel free to contact Ralph Kroll at (580) 747-3728 or your Thrivent representative Bob Morgenthaler at (918) 406-7029.

### FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF January 31st

<b>Offering Goal for 25-26:</b>	<b>\$524,000</b>
<b>Offering to Date:</b>	<b>\$302,198</b>
<b>Income + Offering Goal 25-26:</b>	<b>\$775,800</b>
<b>Income to Date:</b>	<b>\$973,823</b>
<b>Expense Budget for 25-26:</b>	<b>\$1,279,743</b>
<b>Year to Date—Expenses:</b>	<b>\$781,307</b>
<b>Net Income to Date:</b>	<b>\$191,183</b>

### LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

The March Rates are now out. For current interest rates, Call "Dial-a-Rate" at 1-800-THE LCEF



The 2026 offering envelopes have been moved to the office, but are still available upon request. The 2025 contribution statements are also available upon request. They can be printed or emailed.

# Birthdays of the Month



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS



birthday  
wishes  
to...

- 1 - Barbara Kroll
- 2 - Gemma Fortner  
Sarah Johnson
- 3 - Jelani King
- 4 - Crystal Dryden  
Kenley Peters
- 7 - Layton Heitfeld
- 9 - Cynthia Allen  
Joe Malan  
Jane Sutter
- 11 - Gary Parsons  
Nancy Peters
- 12 - Megan Albright
- 16 - Chris Bauer
- 17 - Chris Burdick  
Ron Krey

- 18 - Scott Fischaber  
Breanna Navarro
- 20 - Eldon Reinhardt
- 21 - Kristy Pendleton
- 23 - Bill Wiederkehr
- 24 - Landon Jung  
Teddie Stegeman
- 25 - Callie Albright  
Dorothy Lagan  
Hailey-Lynn Overstreet
- 26 - Lissie King
- 28 - Carole Courter  
Patsy Herth
- 30 - Mike Krienke  
Charlene McHenry

Birthday  
Greetings



11 - Blake & Crystal Dryden

12 - Mason & Jenny Grittman

22 - Bill & Natasha White

26 - Mike & Renie Krienke

  
*Anniversaries  
this  
Month*



*Happy  
Anniversary!*

**THE FOLLOWING ARE CHANGES  
MADE SINCE THE PRINTING OF  
THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER**



If you haven't given the church office your E-Mail address yet call or send it to [office@stpaulsenid.com](mailto:office@stpaulsenid.com). We send out prayer requests, hospital news and reminders of special events.

**No Address Changes**

**The Outreach committee needs your help on  
March 25 @ 5:30 prior to the last Lenten  
service.**



We are making emergency food boxes for church/school families who may need assistance with food. Pastor will store them at the church and use discretion deciding who anonymously receives the boxes. We will be buying the supplies and get the items ready. Your help is needed packing the boxes, writing encouraging notes and storing them for pastor. Funds to support this project will be used from our budget and a Thrivent grant. If you have questions contact an Outreach committee member.



**Men's Bible Study Breakfast**  
**Meet at Boomerang — located at 721 S. Oakwood Rd.— at 7:00 a.m.**  
**each Friday—NOT MEETING IN MARCH**



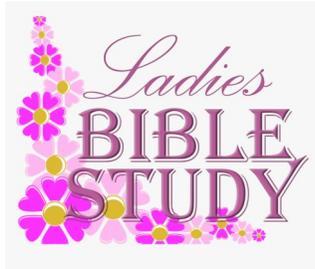
**Dominoes Group  
meets each 1st &  
3rd Monday at 9:45  
AM at the home of  
Gerald & Joyce  
Nolte  
(3005 Forestridge)**



**Pinochle will meet on  
the first and third  
Tuesday of each month  
at 1:00 PM at the home  
of Gerald & Joyce Nolte  
(3005 Forestridge)**

# SPECIAL INTEREST ACTIVITY GROUPS

**Tuesday & Thursday: Balance & Strength @ 11:00 AM in room #108.  
You can enter through the double glass doors on 17th street.**



Ladies Bible Study will meet at 9:30 AM & 6:30 PM every Tuesday in March EXCEPT March 17th. Hope to see you there!



Children's Ministry Team meeting to be announced.



Senior Adults Ministry Potluck Luncheon will be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 11:30 AM.

Location to be announced.



## SPIRITUAL EDUCATION

Join us during our Sunday School hour at 10:15 AM.

We have a class for age 3 through grade 12 that meets in the Library.

An adult class meets in the basement.



Join Us For Family Movie Night on Sunday, March 29, 2026, at 5:00 PM in the basement.

Free Popcorn one and all!



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## From the *Pastor's* desk

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Most of us are unfamiliar with or uncomfortable with private confession. It went out of fashion in the '60s, but in recent years, it has made a return in Lutheran churches. This private rite is a blessing God gives to the church. The same absolution that is spoken over the congregation on a Sunday can be spoken directly to you as the antidote for the guilty, broken conscience. The sins that bother you can be destroyed by the name of Christ and His declaration of forgiveness. Private absolution strips Satan's power of guilt and shame, as the sins are brought into the light of God's grace for the sake of Christ. Jesus died for and absolves *that* sin.

True story: I had stopped to gas up my car after church. A lady pulled up opposite me and started pumping fuel. Noticing my black clerical shirt, she asked, "You come kind of preacher?" Yes, I said, I was the pastor from the Lutheran church, just up the road. "Let me ask you something," she said, and she started telling me about her past, concluding, "Can Jesus forgive that kind of mess?" In that moment, a fuel station became a confessional. I stepped across the fuel island and with my hand held high, I made the sign of the cross and spoke the words of absolution. "What's that for?" she asked. I simply said, "You've been confessing to me for the last twenty gallons. What else can I do but forgive you?" A moment later, she drove away, looking somewhere between confused and relieved.

I suppose, when the conversation started, I could have said, "Here's my card. Call me Tuesday and we can talk about it." I could have shrugged, slipped my tab collar out of my shirt and told her I was off-duty. I could have ignored her ("You talkin' to me?"). No: I couldn't do any of those things. Jesus called me to proclaim His Word. Jesus called me to proclaim forgiveness. What else could I do to someone who was confessing their sins other than to absolve?

**Know this:** that whatever you confess, whether at a gas pump or in the chancel, it is under the seal of the confessional – *period*. I cannot divulge that to anyone, *including my wife*. I made that vow in my ordination in 2000, repeated in my installation last summer. I haven't broken that pledge in 25 years, and I don't intend to do so in the future. People may be afraid that I will treat them differently or think less of them. In fact, the opposite is true: I have a great deal of respect, love and compassion for someone who confesses their sins. It is my great honor and privilege to be able to free the burdened conscience in the name of and in the stead of Christ. (So you know, pastors have pastors, and I regularly call mine to confess my sins and to hear that blessing of absolution for myself. In other words, I literally practice what I preach.)

This is, without a doubt, my favorite part of being a pastor: to be able to speak Christ's Word of comfort and healing to the hurting, struggling soul. I'm like an ordained Paladin: "Have absolution – will travel." It would be my privilege to share that gift with you, if you desire.

Finally, a personal note: I want to thank you all for the prayers, cards, and texts I received after Mom died. The love and compassion you showed to me was incredible. The door love offering completely paid for Chris's plane ticket to Texas. The paper airplanes in my office were overwhelming, in the best possible sense. When I opened my door and saw them, I simply broke down and wept for the love and kindness those planes represented. Truly: those may have been the single most tender and incredible thing I have ever received as a pastor. Thanks for honoring Mom (and Dad) that way. If you don't know the story, I'll print a copy and leave it on my door. Please – stop in and take a look (the picture doesn't do justice). They'll be flying around for a while, yet. I'm not quite in the headspace to read them all. From the bottom of my heart, thank you all. God bless you.

Peace and joy in Christ, our Lenten King, Pastor Meyer.



## Worship Schedule *For* Lent

**Worship: 6:30 PM**

Wednesday, March 4th

Wednesday, March 11th

Wednesday, March 18th

Wednesday, March 25th



Sunday, March 29th—Palm Sunday—9:00 AM—**Communion**

Thursday, April 2nd—Maundy Thursday—6:30 PM—**Communion**

Friday, April 3rd—Good Friday—6:30 PM—**OFFICE CLOSED ALL DAY**

Sunday, April 5th—The Resurrection of our Lord—Easter Sunday—9:00 AM—**Communion**

## Memorials

### **In Memory of Mona Webb—**

Memorials were given to **St. Paul's Lutheran Church** by James & Kathy Wuerflein, Mary Moehle, Carol Garrett & Kary Randles.

### **In memory of Eddie Morris—**

Memorials were given to **St. Paul's Lutheran School** by Juanita Campbell.

### **In memory of Janet Meyer—**

Memorials were given to **St. Paul's Lutheran School** by The Board of Elders, Gerald & Joyce Nolte, Ray & Sharon Mueller, Phil & Harvel Johnson and Kirk & Adola Stocker.

Memorials were given to **Build to the Future** by Ralph & Barbara Kroll.

# Finding Peace



*"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you ..."* John 14:27

## Save the Date

**59th Convention**  
**Lutheran Women in Mission**  
**Oklahoma District LWML**  
**April 17-18, 2026**  
**Hilton Garden Inn, Edmond**

Finding peace in today's world can be difficult. Join us as we explore how Jesus helps us find this peace.

**Keynote Speaker: LCMS OK District Pres. Rev. David Nehrenz**

**Bible Study Leader: Michelle Dierks, Author**

**Hosted by Kingfisher and Panhandle Zones**



The bloodmobile will be here on Sunday, March 8th, at 9:30 AM. Please consider making a life saving contribution if you are able!



Thank You!  
**THANK YOU!**



I want to thank you all for the prayers, cards, and texts I received after Mom died. The love and compassion you showed to me was phenomenal. The door love offering completely paid for Chris's plane ticket to Texas. The paper airplanes in my office were overwhelming, in the good sense of the word. When I opened my door and them, I simply broke down and wept for the love and kindness those planes represented. Truly: those may have been the single most tender and incredible thing I have ever received as a pastor. Thanks for honoring Mom (and Dad) that way. If you don't know the story, I'll print a copy and leave it on my door. Please – stop in and take a look (the picture doesn't do justice). They'll be flying around for a while, yet. I'm not quite in the headspace to read them all. From the bottom of my heart, thank you all. God bless you.

- Pastor Meyer



# DINE TO DONATE

»» *Support* ««

**ST. PAULS LUTHERAN SCHOOL**  
**THURSDAY, MARCH 12**  
**4PM-10PM**



# 10%

**DONATION NIGHT**

for ST. PAULS LUTHERAN SCHOOL.  
Present this flyer at the Enid location  
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**10%** of your total food purchases to  
ST. PAULS LUTHERAN SCHOOL!

**580-324-0269**  
**4629 W. OWEN K GARRIOTT ROAD**  
**ENID, OK**



We will live-stream church services at:

<https://stpaulsenid.com/church-media/#LIVESTREAM>

If you cannot watch these videos live, they are recorded and you can watch them at your convenience.



**Church Election Time Fast Approaching:** As we near the end of the church year, it is once again time for us to reflect back on the past year and to look ahead to coming opportunities. In Mark 10:45 we hear Jesus speaking: “<sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45 ESV) You are invited to take time and see where you, in the Spirit of Jesus Christ, might be able to serve St. Paul’s congregation and the surrounding community. The following offices will be up for election this year: **Chairman-elect, Treasurer, Head Elder, two members at large, School Board Chairman & Properties Chairman.** The responsibilities for each office may be found in the church constitution. Of course, if you are currently in a position, and have not already served two terms, you are eligible to run again. May God bless you and lead you as you consider where you may serve.



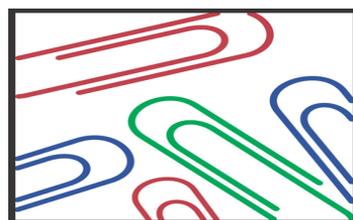
**ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL**

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Enid, OK. 73701

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Website: [www.stpaulsenid.com](http://www.stpaulsenid.com)

*The Mission at St. Paul's Lutheran Church is:*

*Preach and Teach to ALL,  
Comfort and Support those in need!*



**FROM THE  
CHURCH  
OFFICE**

**OFFICE HOURS**

The Church/School Office hours are from 7:30 AM—3:30 PM. If you call prior to or after these hours, please leave a message. If it is an emergency please contact: Gene Hollrah (580) 554-2318 OR vacancy pastor Rev. Dwayne Schroeder at (405) 306-2007.