



St. Paul Lutheran Church

Newsletter for February 2025

Here is a day in the life of St. Paul Lutheran Church: Tuesday, January 7, 2025.

Just shortly after the office opens at 9:00, a group of young men, college students taking a film class, come in and ask if they can use our sanctuary later in the day to make a movie. Without asking too many questions, we say yes. One of the young men says that he is a believer, and that he would like to pray there later in the day. They come back at 3:30 or so and work on their movie, explaining that their character is concerned about something he plans to do, and prays for forgiveness before he does it. I tell them about the Lutheran concept of God's grace. When the filming is done, the young believer stays; we find him prostrate on the floor in the sanctuary, pouring his heart out to God. We do not disturb him until he is ready to leave.

Next, a family with husband and pregnant wife and a toddler come to our door. They had been visiting in Vancouver, and their car was stolen, along with all of their money and property. They need help to pay for the balance they owe for the previous night. Our lay minister Susan Craswell and office administrator Leslie Relth tap our Agape emergency assistance funds to give them some cash and to pay for two more nights in the motel.

Then a family comes in to see the pastor: an older man who at once stayed at our shelter, his adult daughter, and her 10-year-old son. They ask if they can have a funeral at St. Paul for their 34-year-old son and brother. Church musician Lori Thomas and I start trying to plan a funeral with them. Eventually, I ask what should have been the first question: "How did he die?" He committed suicide, only five days earlier, they quietly tell us, as they start to fall apart. Suddenly, we are called to deliver God's comfort, not just to be doing the business of planning a funeral.

While all of this is going on, it is the day after Epiphany, and the Christmas decorations are still up, and we have not made a plan to have a group project of taking down the decorations. But about midmorning, Council President Mick Johnson came in. Mick believes that his job description is "other duties as assigned," and by midafternoon, almost all traces of Christmas decorations are gone.

As all of this is going on, I wander into the office, and my eyes fall on a greeting card envelope addressed to some old friends of mine who live in Walla Walla. So I ask, "Why are you writing to Ellen and Bill?" It turns out that my friends had spontaneously sent St. Paul an offering for our Agape fund. Ah – the circle of giving is completed.

And for all of this, we are thankful. We are thankful that people come to us with their needs, and that we are able to meet those needs. We are thankful that everybody at St. Paul has a job, a unique contribution to our community and our ministries, and that everyone does it without seeking recognition. We are thankful that God and people we know contribute in unexpected ways to the support of St. Paul, so that all of this can continue to happen.

Thanks be to God, and thanks be to each other.

In the love of Christ from your pastor,



Serving in Worship – February 2025

Feb	Assisting Minister	Reader	Projection Technician	Ushers/Greeters
2 nd	Joe Aalbue	Jeff Belamy	Sally Schlachtenhaufen	Bill & Crisann
9 th	Susan Craswell	Josh Heitman	John Troth	Pat & Marilyn
16 th	Mick Johnson	Jan Albrecht	Jeff Belamy	Susan & Joy
23 rd	Jeff Belamy	Steven Ullrich	Ben Jackson	Gena & Cecil
Mar 2	Joe Aalbue	Jeff Belamy	Mick Johnson	Bill & Crisann
Feb	Communion Bread	Communion Set-up	Coffee Hour	
2 nd	Pat Irland	Marilyn Aldrich	Katherine Whitney	
9 th	Pat Irland	Jody Jack	Bill & Crisann	
16 th	Pat Irland	Pat Irland	Gena & Cecil	
23 rd	Pat Irland	Susan Craswell	Katherine Whitney	
Mar 2	Susan Craswell	Marilyn Aldrich	Jan Albrecht	

February 2025 – Readings and Psalm

Feb	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
2	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Psalm 71:1-6	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30
9	Isaiah 6:1-8	Psalm 138	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Luke 5:1-11
16	Jeremiah 17:5-10	Psalm 1	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	Luke 6:17-26
23	Genesis 45:3-11, 15	Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40	1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50	Luke 6:27-38

We are in this Together . . .

Meet Joyce and Jim White...



I interviewed Joyce and Jim White several years ago when I first started doing the series on folks in our church. We got to thinking there was so much we didn't know about our own people and we would read about them too late often and how wrong that was so the aim was to correct that, Joyce died shortly after Christmas this year. She is a great loss to many of us. I didn't know her that many years, but I loved her and respected this strong woman of character who demonstrated every day how to live with hope and courage. She will be missed by Jimmy, for sure,

but also by the rest of us! What follows is the article from about four years ago. Sally

Some 39 years ago St. Paul was the site of an amazing event. The McLoughlin Middle School Choir numbering 100 sang from the balcony. Other musicians and singers joined the celebration as Jim and Joyce White were joined in marriage. It had been a short courtship, only 7 months, but then Jim said that his "socks had been knocked off" when he met Joyce... so big surprise. Neither looked back after their first dance. (He was quite a dancer!) It was a second marriage for both and together they raised five kids and fostered another seventeen. In order to do this they added on bedrooms, living space and a decks to their cozy home.

Jim was born in Santa Monica, but the family moved to Vancouver where Jim's dad was a general contractor for much of the post-war housing. Jim joined the business at age 13 as the "clean-up guy." He went to Hudson's Bay and then went to Carpenter Apprentice School. When his father retired, he took over the business. Later he became a real estate broker which he did until fairly recently. Joyce was born in Vancouver and was in the last class at Vancouver High School (along with Geri Hiller). She received her MA from the University of Portland while working for the Vancouver School District, mainly at MAC Middle School where she taught music and English. One interesting side-note is that she created a class called, "It's Your Future." The class was designed to teach life skills like managing a checkbook and money, simple cooking, etc.

How did they find St. Paul? For Jim it was easy. He married Joyce and she brought him into the fold. After all, Joyce was the music director. Jim's church background was varied with his mother dipping

into various churches during their growing-up years. Joyce on the other hand was the daughter of the organist at the Downtown Congregational Church. She never missed. So it makes sense that as an adult she would not only teach school, but also direct a church choir in Hillsboro and just for fun, direct the "Sweet Adelines." Add to this, a family at home and work on her MA. WOW! When Geri Hiller approached her about directing the choir at St. Paul she jumped at the chance to give up the long commute. Joyce served in this position for 25 years.

Joyce and Jim White rarely miss church today although both could find lots of excuses. They are a faithful and dedicated twosome who continue to serve in amazing ways. Jim uses his contacts and knowledge to make connections and do consulting for our church. Joyce serves on council and every once in a while, we are treated to a solo from her.

Joyce said that when she was young, she would rather dance than eat; travel than stay home, but now is happy to be home with a good book. The two of them find so much joy in being together, in sharing their lives and their time. We all have so much to learn from them.

Did you know? And can you guess who?

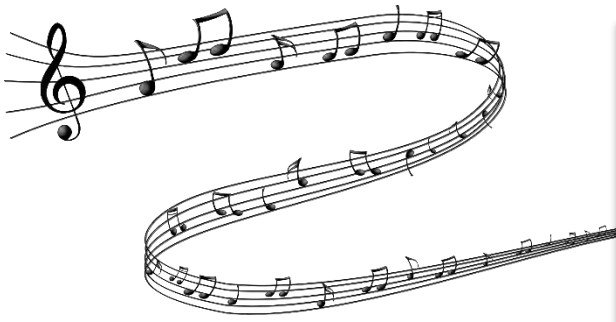
We have some amazing angels at St. Paul...

- **When Bill Larson got home from the hospital last month a special angel and her family brought a meal to Kris Ann and Bill that actually was enough for four meals!**
- **There are a bunch of angels at St. Paul who finished five quilts for LWR in one afternoon.**
- **Angel abound who are caring for the unhoused in our basement with food, drink, games, warmth and love. This is truly what we are all called to do....angels or not!**



Answers from last month:

- **There are two special angels who show up at the Larson home to read to Cris Ann and hang out with them. (Clara and Elena Oden)**
- **There are several special angels who made up Christmas cups with treats for older folks in our community to make sure they were remembered at Christmas. (Marilyn Aldrich, Joy Carlson, Lori Thomas, Bridget Thomas, Linda Troth, Gena Roberts, Donna Kennedy, Geri Hiller)**
- **Several St. Paul angels worked to make sure there was a bell ringer, coffee, hot chocolate, cookies, a welcome space and more for the Longest Night Memorial. We are grateful! (Jeff Bellamy, Geri Hiller, Pat Irland, Pastor Linda, to name a few....)**
- **There are angels who will show up to sing in the choir and sing for others plus organize all of this during this important season. (Lori Thomas and crew)**



St. Paul Lutheran Pick-up
Choir which happens from
time to time!

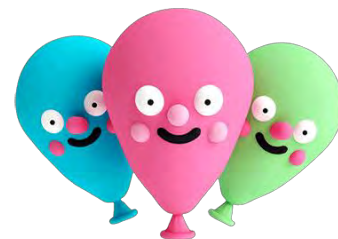


Birthdays in February

Sally Meeks 2/2 Betty Ellithorpe 2/7 Susan Craswell 2/9

Sally Schlachtenhaufen 2/15 Ruth Chamberlin 2/21

Joyce Holland 2/23 Lori Thomas 2/26



A Day at St. Paul Warming Shelter:

Each day that is below 36 degrees (nighttime low temperature) is designated a severe weather event by local homeless agencies such as Council for the Homeless in Vancouver. St. Paul has agreed to open our basement and allow people in need to come into our space, get hot drinks and a meal and rest. Many of our guests sleep in homeless shelters but they are required to leave that space at 7 AM and cannot return until 6 PM. This makes for a long, cold, and lonely day. Our shelter is open for guests from 8:30 to 4.

Our day begins at 8AM when the opener arrives to get the breakfast table ready, generally coffee, cocoa and hot water for oatmeal with various other additions, depending on the generosity of businesses, friends and members. Our guests arrive, often very cold and are glad to have a respite from the outdoors. Sandwiches and fruit, chips and donated treats are for lunch and during the down time we are able to get to know these neighbors. It has been rewarding for all of us, and we welcome anyone who would like to volunteer in the shelter or providing a snack for our guests.



Calendar:

Saturdays, 2:30 Iona Community Church meets at St. Paul

Sundays, 2:00 pm - Chuuk Logos Community Church meets at St. Paul

Wednesdays, 12:20-12:45 - Contemplative Prayer in the sanctuary.

Outreach Circle: Next meeting is Wednesday, February 5 at 1:30, at St. Paul.

2nd and 4th Sunday afternoons at the church at 3:00 - Poetry group. Next one Sunday, February 9, 3:00

Quilters: 2nd and 4th Wednesday: Next February meetings are Wednesdays, Feb 12 & 26.

Service for Joan Pihl, wife of Pastor is Saturday, February 15th at 1:00 at St Andrew Church. Joan passed away last week.

Sunday Feb 23rd is our Congregational Meeting following the service. All are welcome. There will be a few items requiring members approval.

Wednesday, March 5, Ash Wednesday service 6:00 pm.

Daylight Savings starts Sun, March 9, 2025

Lent midweek services beginning March 12 - Soup Supper at 6:00 and Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30 Wednesdays

Joyce White service and reception - Saturday, March 15, 11:00 am. Circle, and Joyce and Geri's high school girlfriends, will host a reception directly following the service.