

Beloved People of God,

I've been learning a lot lately from an ultramarathoner. Usually, I'd question the sanity of anyone who willingly runs 100 miles at a time. Yet, this particular runner, MaryAnn McKibben Dana, is also a wise pastor, mother, and author of a beautiful book called Hope: A User's Manual. Many of Dana's insights about hope come out of parenting a child struggling with severe depression. Others come from long runs that often feel to her like slogs through deep mud.

One insight that's really resonated with me is Dana's encouragement to *focus on form*, to pay attention to the practices and rituals that help us move through our days. She shares the wisdom that "beginning runners tend to focus on the pain, intermediate runners often focus on the distance, and advanced runners learn to focus on form." In running, in life, and in faith, Dana's found that rather than fixating on what hurts, or how much farther she has to go, it's best to stay focused on the things that help her keep moving through it all.

That is important wisdom for us in our life together as a congregation. It would be easy to focus on the pain- the things that are hard about living as a community, the hurts of the past, our frustrations with others. It would be easy to get overwhelmed by the distance we need to travel into renewal as a congregation. In this season of Easter, I encourage us to focus instead on the forms that will help keep us moving together into the new life God gives.

God has given us forms, rituals, and practices that can help us to move forward together with hope and faith. Confession and Forgiveness, Holy Baptism, Holy Communion, the Lord's Prayer- these forms sustain and carry us. Spending time in scripture shapes us to treat others as we hope to be treated, to address conflict calmly and clearly, and to forgive. These ways of being are essential in life together. When things are hard and all you can feel is pain, when you don't know how you'll move through, the community prays and practices on your behalf, the rituals the community does carry you. At other times, your practice does the same for others.

We have so many hopes for the future of St. Paul's. There is joy in our life together. God is renewing us. As we hope and work, God has given us ways of being that will help us move into God's promised future together. Thanks be to God ~ Pastor Amy



Congratulations to Danelle Kinney for winning the Best Gourmet Soup!

White Chicken Lasagna Soup

2T. unsalted butter, 1 med onion, finely chopped, 3 cloves fresh garlic, finely minced., 2t. Italian seasoning, 1 t. salt, ¼ t. black pepper, 1/8 t. crushed red pepper flakes, 3c. low sodium chicken broth, 2 boneless skinless chicken breasts, 2 c. short dry pasta (ex. Mafalda) 1 c. half and half, 2T cornstarch

1. In a large pot over med. Heat, melt butter
2. Add onions, cook until just brown
3. Stir in Garlic, Italian seasoning, salt/pepper, red pepper flakes, cook 1 min
4. Add chicken broth and stir well. Then add chicken breasts (uncooked)
5. Bring to a simmer and cover, reduce heat to med/low and cook for 12-15 min, stir occasionally, until chicken breasts are cooked.
6. Meanwhile, cook the pasta in boiling salted water to al dente
7. When the chicken is cooked, remove from the soup and shred
8. Whisk together cream and corn starch
9. Stir the shredded chicken, cooked pasta noodles and cream into the pot and heat through
10. Serve with cheese as desired.



Thank you to everyone that brought soup, ingredients, or helped with the soup dinners for the youth! You are greatly appreciated.



We have this book in the office if you would like to check it out. It is geared towards kids and how to help with Grief.

April

7th – Doubting Thomas

14th – Philip and Ethiopian

21st – Kids in Worship – Look for a sign up for reading, singing, and bell playing.

28th – Peter and Tabitha



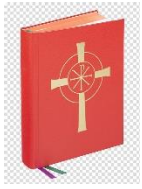
Youth has been busy with Soup Suppers, Quilters Raffle, Pancake Feed on Palm Sunday and the Gertans Flowers!

Thank you to the youth team for helping with all these events.

Thank you to everyone that donated their time and energy.

Thank you to everyone who donated to these projects as well! The youth are all greatly appreciative of our whole Church Family.

The Count Down is On! There is less then 100 days to go before the trip to NEW ORLEANS!!



Lectionaries

April 7 th	Acts 4:32-35	Psalm 133	1 John 1:1-2:2	John 20: 19-31
April 14 th	Acts 3:12-19	Psalm 4	1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36b-48
April 21 st	Acts 4:5-12	Psalm 23	1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18
April 28 th	Acts 8:26-40	Psalm 22:25-31	1 John 4:7-21	John 15: 10-8



Noisy Offering

The offering for March will be going to the food shelf.
April's noisy offering will go to: The Local Animal Shelter
Thank you for collecting your change to help those in need.

Our new Inspire praise and worship band is looking for a base guitar player. Please call Zasha at 651-380-0043 if you or you know anyone who may be interested.



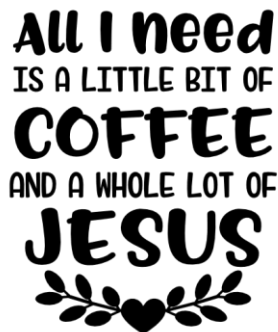


April 18 at 10am is this month's meeting of the WELCA Bible Study – Ruth Anna Circle at the Gathering Area as we continue discussing *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans.

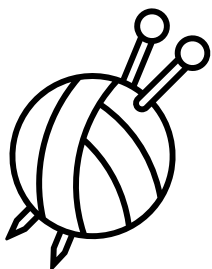
A quote from Nadia Bolz-Weber, pastor, and author of *Pastrix* and *Accidental Saints*, highlights the impact of this book for our life together in faith:

"Inspired is a love letter to scripture. Evans takes what has been weaponized against so many of us and she beats it into ploughshares. She shows us how to love the Bible; how to see its flaws, beauty, strength, and spirit at the same time. That's love. Not worship. Love. I'm so grateful for this expertly written, timely book."

All are welcome. The book can be ordered from Amazon and a study guide is available in the church office.



The aroma of fresh brewed coffee fills the Gathering Area as we enter our church building for fellowship, worship, meetings, and service. A big thanks to everyone who helped with the Gathering Area updates! Thank you, Invite Team, St. Paul's Foundation, and generous donors of time and funds, for the new coffee/hot water machine, coffee nook, high top tables, and enhanced serving island!



Calling all knitters and crocheters.

We will be meeting for **Family Knitting** starting again in April, the first and third Wednesdays at 6:30.

Prayer Shawls will continue to meet on Wednesdays of the month at 2:00 in the afternoon.

We will continue to knit warm hats and scarves for the next school year, and we may have a new "secret" project. Come and find out.

All are welcome to join us.



Come See the Pierce County Ecumenical Choir!

St. Paul's will be hosting April 7th at 7pm.

Free will donations will be collected and donated to Local charities.

Refreshments will follow the concert.



Update: Communion will be served at the altar rail, with intinction, on the 1st Sunday of the month. There will also be an accessible station in front of the stairs. Gluten free individual servings of communion are available for those with dietary needs and those who are concerned about germs and intinction.

Financial Update – February

YTD	2023	2024
Giving	\$60,791	\$64,514
Expenses	<u>\$94,837</u>	<u>\$52,244</u>
Profit/Loss	-\$34,045	\$12,270



We are in a good place so far this year ending both January and February in the black!

Thank you so much for your continuous and generous support to St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Calli Ekblad, Treasurer – 651-380-0936

Confirmation



Confirmation Schedule Spring 2024, revised

February 14th- March 20th	Soup Suppers 6:30 pm, Lent Worship 7pm
March 27th	No Wednesday Class, Holy Week, students are encouraged to attend Maundy Thursday (3/28, 7pm), Good Friday (3/29, 7pm), and Easter Sunday (3/31) worship
March 29th	Stations of the Cross Event (tri-lutheran) 2pm-4pm @ First Lutheran, required for Confirmation (if you'll be out of town, talk with Pr. Amy in advance for a make-up option.)
April 3rd	No class, Easter break
April 10th, 17th	All students, Dinner 6:30pm, Class 7-8pm
April 24th	8th graders only, Dinner 6:30, Class 7-8pm
April 28th	Confirmation Sunday, Affirmation of Baptism for 8th graders



Pop by with a gift for guests.

The Invite Team has created gift bags for new guests in worship. The outside of the bags says “thanks for popping in”. Inside the bag, guests will find popcorn, a welcome note, and information about St. Paul’s. The Invite Team is looking for people who can drop these off at guests home during the workday. Please contact Pr. Amy if you can share in this wonderful ministry of hospitality. She can provide you with support in this as well.



New Members of St. Paul’s will be welcomed in worship on Sunday, May 5. If you have been part of St. Paul’s for a while but have not been welcomed yet, please let the church office know if you can attend this Welcome Sunday. If you are interested in membership, please contact Pr. Amy. We will be forming a New Member Community.

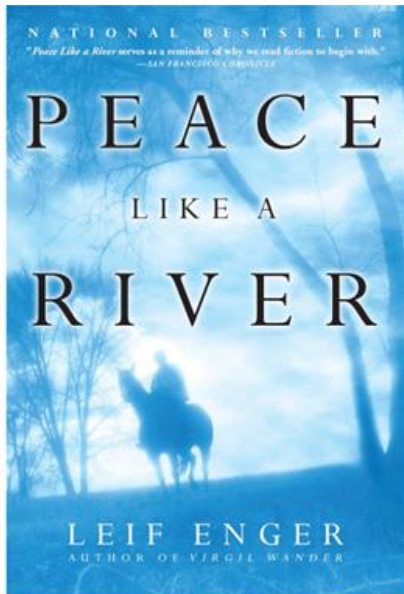
Dear St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Congregation

On behalf of Tabor Lutheran Church congregation of rural Bay City ~ I would like to thank you so very much for donating 8 Lutheran Book of Worship Hymnals (LBW- The Green Book) to us.

We really appreciated it and thank you so very much for your kindness. Thank you also, to Pastor Hasselquist. Sincerely, Mary

Edquist – Tabors Council President





The April Book Club book is going to be **Peace Like a River** by C.S Leif Enger.

Enger brings us eleven-year-old Reuben Land, an asthmatic boy in the Midwest who has reason to believe in miracles. Along with his sister and father, Reuben finds himself on a cross-country search for his outlaw older brother who has been charged with murder. Their journey unfolds like a revelation, and its conclusion shows how family, love, and faith can stand up to the most terrifying of enemies, and the most tragic of fates.

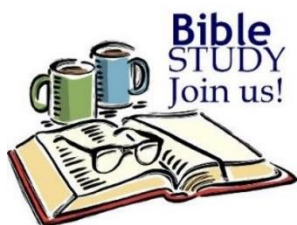
The book will need to be obtained by the reader or there will be a copy of the book available in the church library. The current price on Amazon is \$10.39. Please let a member of the study team know, if you need assistance in obtaining the book.

The April Meeting will be held at 6pm on Wednesday, April 24th. The May book choice will be discussed/decided at the April meeting and will be announced in the May epistle. Please bring any ideas for the next book to the next meeting. All are welcome even if you have not read the book we are discussing.



Foundation meetings in 2024 are scheduled for Thursdays, January 25, April 25, July 25, and October 24. Request for Funds should be submitted to the church office by 10th of the month of January, April, July and October to be considered at the quarterly meeting.

Scholarships: If you are graduating from high school in 2024 or are continuing your education and have not previously applied for a scholarship, you may apply. Please fill out the Scholarship Application form and submit it with your essay attached no later than Wednesday, April 10, 2024. The Foundation Board will be reviewing the scholarship applications received at its April quarterly meeting. Forms are available in the church office.



Risers Bible Study Join Us Tuesdays at 7:00am in fellowship hall Hot Breakfast is served with a free will offering followed by Bible Study that focuses on upcoming lessons.



MERRY MARTHA QUILTER'S CELEBRATE NATIONAL QUILTING DAY

On Sunday, March 17, we had a great time after church celebrating National Quilting Day in the Fellowship Hall downstairs. Treats were served and attendees observed the process involved with making our mission quilts. We also had an assembly line and our youth joined in to put together 50 Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Finally, a drawing was held for the Youth Fundraiser Quilt. The winner was Sally Haase and she chose the blue pieced quilt. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed wonderful fellowship.

But our work is never done, so we will continue to be at it every Tuesday morning making quilts (and enjoying each other's company). It is also time to start thinking about gathering the components for the Baby Care Kits. Beginning in mid-April, we will be collecting for each kit:

TWO lightweight cotton t-shirts (no Onesies ®)

TWO long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)

TWO receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, between 36" and 52" square

FOUR cloth diapers, flat fold preferred

ONE jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap

TWO pairs of socks

ONE hand towel, dark color recommended

TWO or three bath-size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars

TWO diaper pins or large safety pins

Watch the bulletin for announcements about how to donate. Spring garage sales can be a great source for reasonably priced items in very good condition. New items can also be purchased of course. We will ask the youth to help us again with assembling the kits (date to be determined).

April

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Risers 7am Quilters 9am – 11:30am Clergy Study 1-2pm 7 pm Pharm Committee	Prayer Shawls 2pm Family Knitting 6pm		Pastor's day off	5:00pm Worship/Holy Communion
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30am Worship/Holy Communion Sunday School Invite Meeting 10:30am		Risers 7am Quilters 9am – 11:30am Clergy Study 1-2pm	Prayer <u>Shawls</u> 2pm 6:30 Confirmation Meal 7:00 Confirmation All grades		Pastor's day off Epistle Articles are due	5:00pm Worship/Holy Communion
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30am Worship/Holy Communion Sunday School 11:15 Youth Gathering Meeting 11:00am Leadership Meet		Risers 7am Quilters 9am – 11:30am Clergy Study 1-2pm	Prayer Shawls 2pm Family Knitting 6pm Epistle Assembly 6:30 Confirmation Meal 7:00 Confirmation All grades	10am Ruth Anna/WELCA 7pm Council Meeting	Pastor's day off	No Worship Service
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:30am Worship/Holy Communion No Sunday School		Risers 7am Quilters 9am – 11:30am Clergy Study 1-2pm	Prayer Shawls 2pm Book Study 6pm No Confirmation Meal 7:00pm Confirmation 8 th grade <u>only</u>	11:00am Worship meeting	Pastor's day off	5:00pm Worship/Holy Communion
28	29	30				
9:30am Worship/Holy Communion Confirmation Sunday Sunday School		Risers 7am Quilters 9am – 11:30am Clergy Study 1-2pm				