

Greetings St. Paul Lutheran Church!

During Lent, we are focusing on the disciplines of Lent, especially sacrificial giving and works of love. St. Paul is an amazing congregation already doing this but it is helpful at times to intentionally think and pray about it, too. On Sundays, we've been sharing how and why St. Paul continues to be the congregation that cares. I love being able to share about St. Paul during my messages. Now, I was never a cheerleader, I was usually the sports player, but I see one of my roles right now during Lent is to cheer us on and encourage us to continue to give sacrificially to God through St. Paul.

You have been hearing why I give to St. Paul. You've heard about our first fruits giving to the larger church to do care for more people than we could care for by ourselves. Last Sunday, you heard about why we worship and gather together and about our staff chicken wrangler Tracy and musician Fonda and how they go above and beyond their job as their calling to St. Paul. And I shared my heartfelt appreciation to you for your support especially after my mom's recent cancer diagnosis. On Sunday, you will hear more about why to give to St. Paul. I won't spoil it here so you will have to come to worship or watch it on-line to learn more 😊

One ministry I will share about today is Bread for the World. It's an advocacy ministry that connects with lawmakers to encourage signing of bills that will help feed people. This year's focus is on the WIC program. WIC stands for Women, Infants, and Children. 40% of children born in the U.S. use this program. I was one of them. We will have an offering of letters on Sunday. Come to the Fellowship Hall after worship to sign letters to our local representatives.

Another way St. Paul does advocacy and justice ministry is through SURE (Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity). SURE has a new Lead Organizer. I met with her for breakfast earlier this week. Her name is Michelle Jewel. She has a heart for this ministry. You can meet her and help create the vision for SURE at the Nehemiah Action on Monday, March 31 at 6:30p at Faith Lutheran Church. It would be great if we can have as many or more people as last year at the event. We had over 30 there last year from St. Paul. Let's do it again.

Remember to bring in Easter candy for the kid's Easter egg hunt.



When I saw this cartoon I thought of our Egg and Rock Hunt. The kids get both. And I think they like our rocks sometimes more than the eggs.

Take care and God bless

-PrAshley