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## **PASTOR'S PONDERINGS: *Remembering God's Promises***

February 22, 2024

This year on the five Sunday in Lent, the sermons will focus on five covenants from Old Testament history that God made with God's people. Each is associated with a symbol to help us remember these covenants.

- Lent 1 (February 18) – God tells Noah that a rainbow in the clouds is the sign that God never again destroy the earth by water. (Genesis 9:8-17)
- Lent 2 (February 25) – God encourages Abraham and Sarah to count the stars; that's how numerous their/our ancestors will be. (Genesis 17:1-16 and Genesis 15:5)
- Lent 3 (March 3) – God gives Moses and the Israelites the 10 Commandments on stone tablets (Exodus 20:1-17).
- Lent 4 (March 10) – Before Moses, God uses a bronze serpent rather than a band-aid to save the people from death. (I'm guessing that band-aids weren't yet invented....) (Numbers 21:4-9)
- Lent 5 (March 17) – God promises through the prophet Jeremiah that we will come to know God by heart. (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

Do you suppose God has ever looked for loopholes in a covenant? On the first Sunday in Lent, we were reminded of the story of Noah and the flood and God's promise that water or a flood will never again destroy the earth. (Kudos to Eden Miller for knowing the whole story!) God put the rainbow in the sky to help both us and God remember this promise. Again, the promises that God makes with God's people is that water will "never again become a flood to destroy all flesh." (Genesis 9:15) Of course, that leaves a loophole, doesn't it? God's got some wiggle room, some options; God could choose among other weapons of mass destruction for the earth and its inhabitants. But the unfortunate truth is that God doesn't need to inflict catastrophe upon "all

flesh,” because humans are already doing a pretty good job of it themselves without God’s help. We are making a mess of the world – as they did in Noah’s time. So after the covenant to never again destroy all creation, including humanity – and several other covenants along the way (join us on Sundays to learn more!), God sent his Son, Jesus to clean up the mess.

So the texts from the Old Testament that we will study during Lent remind us that when it comes to covenants, God keeps promises. God is faithful. God does not look for loopholes.

I look forward to seeing you at worship, at Dinner Church, Ministerium luncheons and wherever God’s people gather!

In Christ,

Pastor Gwenn Trout

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**SUNDAY, February 25, 2024,  
9am**

*Second Sunday in Lent*

Scriptures: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16;

Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25;

Mark 8:31-38

Deacon Chelle Huth, presiding

(no communion)

Click [HERE](#) to watch LIVE

**Feb 25 Bulletin**

**SUNDAY, March 3, 2024, 9am**

*Third Sunday in Lent*

Scriptures: Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm

19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John

2:13-22

Click [HERE](#) to watch LIVE

The 3/3 bulletin will be posted to our website ([stpaulsenola.org](http://stpaulsenola.org)) next week.

**February 25th bulletins are presented in loving memory of**

**Katy Holderbaum by her family.**

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**THANK YOU TO OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

	Feb 25	March 3	March 10	March 17	March 24 Palm Sun.
<b>Asst. Min.</b>	Nick C.	MaryJane	Nick C.	MaryJane	Nick C.
<b>Lector</b>	McKenna	Steve H.	Wendy C.	Emily B.	Seana M.
<b>Ushers</b>	Mike P. Steve H.	Tim M. Duane J.	Tim M. Duane J.	Tim M. Duane J.	Tim M. Duane J.
<b>Counters</b>	Nick C. Jan A.	Chris F. MaryJane	Chris F. Jan A.	Chris F. Judy C.	Chris F. Trudy G.
<b>Altar s/u</b>	Nick C.	Amanda	Tim M.	Amanda	Amanda
<b>Altar c/u</b>	Judy C.	Judy	MaryJane	Judy C.	MaryJane
<b>Lock-up</b>	Nick C.	Chris F.	Chris F.	Chris F.	Chris F.
<b>Musician</b>	Carolyn H.	Beth T.	Abby B.	Carolyn H.	Abby B.
<b>Tech</b>	Nick C. / Doug B.				

**2024 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS** - click [HERE](#) to access the NEWLY UPDATED yearly schedule. If you cannot serve on a given Sunday, please find someone to switch with you and contact the church office. As always, thanks for what you do!

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**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**Adult Sunday School has begun a new series:** *The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss* led by Doug Bowers! (On days when Doug's not available, we will continue using *The Wired Word*.) Come join in the lively discussions every Sunday between 10:30-11:30am. Coffee, tea, and hot chocolate are available.

**Children's Sunday School** will meet on March 24, April 21, and May 19.

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**HELP NEEDED!** We are hosting the Upper West Shore Ecumenical Ministerium's Lenten Luncheon on March 13th at noon. Please talk to Pastor Gwenn about how you can help.

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**MOVIE NIGHT:** Join us on Saturday, **March 23 at 6:30 pm** for a viewing of the acclaimed 1970's rock musical, *Jesus Christ Superstar*. This is a great way to begin the holiest of weeks in our church year, focusing on Christ's life, death and resurrection. All are welcome!

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### **40 DAYS OF LENT FOOD COLLECTION for New Hope Ministries**

Download the full calendar [HERE](#) or pick up one in church. Collect for as many days as you can!

2/23: spaghetti sauce; 2/24: box instant potatoes; 2/25: can green beans; 2/26: boxed spaghetti; 2/27: instant oatmeal; 2/28: bottled water; 2/29: granola bars; 3/1: jar apple sauce; 3/2: crackers; 3/3: canned chicken; 3/4: canned corn; 3/5: canned mixed veggies; 3/6: chicken noodle soup; 3/7: canned stew

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The theme for study is Max Lucado's book "Grace: More Than We Deserve, Greater Than We Imagine". Copies of the book are available for purchase at

a cost of \$11 each. **Please sign up in the upper Sunday school room to bring soup, bread or dessert.**

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### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- February 27: Property committee meeting, 7:00 pm  
February 28: Ministerium Lenten Luncheon, noon  
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 225 Salt Rd  
February 28: Dinner Church, 6:00 pm, St Paul's, Enola  
February 29: Lent Supper (5:30pm) & Worship (7:00pm)  
Grace United Methodist, Lemoyne  
March 2: Lenten breakfast & book study, 8:45 am  
St. Paul's, New Cumberland  
March 6: Ministerium Lenten Luncheon, noon  
Enola First Church of God, 9 Sherwood Dr.  
March 6: Dinner Church, 6:00 pm, St Paul's, Enola  
March 7: Lent Supper (5:30pm) & Worship (7:00pm)  
Trinity Lutheran, Lemoyne
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### **Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central PA**

**SPRING QUILTING RETREAT** is a gathering of women to share fellowship and talents. Held at Camp Kirchenwald, Friday March 15 - Sunday, March 17. Call 717.677.8211 or click [here](#) for more information and to register by March 8.

**SUMMER CAMPS** - Click [here](#) for the brochure on the great variety of youth camp offerings.

Camp isn't just for kids! Click [here](#) to read about camps for families and "mature" adults.

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## **FREE HERSHEY PARK TICKETS!**



# **HERSEYPARK**

Did that get your attention? Yes, you can earn free tickets to Hersheypark, ZooAmerica or Christmas Candylane! All you need to do is volunteer your time (usually 4-hour shifts) in a variety of ways - retail, food/beverage, rides, ushering, games, etc. Training is provided and shifts are available in the Park, ZooAmerica, Giant Center and Hershey Stadium throughout the year.

If you won't use the tickets yourself, they make great gifts (for kids, grandkids, friends, etc). Plus, there's a BONUS - St. Paul's will receive money for every hour you work. For more information, click [here](#) and/or contact Denise Casella.

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

### FEBRUARY

24 Barbara Hunter  
25 Kenneth Getz, Jr.  
27 Lance Diehl

### MARCH

1 Betsy Treharne  
10 Steve Hoffmaster  
12 Lana Stitzel  
17 Mason Miller  
18 Brian Verchick  
20 David Hultberg  
21 Linda Morrow  
23 Scott Maier

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Cindy H., Kody G., Dottie F., Jay U., Jerry J.,  
Doug E., Jordan B., Christian, Naoma C.,  
Brenda, Holly, Boden R., Barb N.

*Please let the church office know if anyone you've placed on the prayer list can be removed.*

### **ONGOING LONG-TERM PRAYER REQUESTS**

Elizabeth D., Sheree H., Janie S., Arla,  
Marge & Jerry, Terrie J.



#### **Next Council Meeting: 03/11, 2pm**

Click the button below for documents from the most recent Council meeting.

Council Meeting Materials



Click [HERE](#) to view the current financial report.

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**If you have any news you would like to share in the Epistle,  
please email or call the church office.**

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Remember to mention St. Paul's ID #10151 when you donate clothing, shoes, accessories, electronics, toys and household goods.



**AN EASY WAY OF GIVING**

Scan the QR code with your phone to quickly and easily give to the church.



I'm giving up spreadsheets for forty days.

*Excel Lent!*

<https://laffgaff.com/lent-jokes-puns/>



St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
The Reverend Gwenn L. Trout, Interim Pastor  
Ann M. Gottlieb, Office Manager (office hours T/Th 9am-3pm)  
Nicholas Cekovich, Director of Music  
Jack Yinger, Sexton





**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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