

# **Dinner for Two**

Waiting on the Lord



Eugene Peterson writes of prayer being like having an intimate dinner with God: time set aside, intimate, close, your desire is to listen, that what God has to say is of utmost importance, being with God is worthy of every effort to spend this special time together, "moments of silence, full of meaning." And then, Peterson says, there is a parody of prayer. Where the person across the table is Self and God is the waiter. "You can't have dinner without him, but he is not an intimate participant in it. He is someone to whom you give orders, make complaints, and maybe, at the end, give thanks. The person you are absorbed in is Self—your moods, your ideas, your interests, your satisfactions or lack of them."

Considering that prayer is most often motivated by our need, a crying out for help, counsel, direction, it is ironic then, that we often spend much of the time directing God, counseling God on what help we should be given and when that help should come. We are placing our orders, expecting good service, with God as our waiter, rather than any willingness on our part to wait upon Him.

Prayer throughout the Psalms is about waiting upon the Lord, giving attention to the One who attends to us, being intentional rather than incidental in our conversations with Him, listening far more than speaking. Prayer is to be a starting point rather than a last resort, a regular and constant rhythm, our heartbeat instead of merely the response to heartburn.

And so back to our image of prayer being a dinner for two. Psalm 23 gives us the startling picture of God setting a table before us in the presence of our enemies (verse 5). A table prepared by God in the midst of our troubles, distresses, afflictions. It is a powerful reminder that God is in the midst of the mess and yet intends for us to come and dine with Him, to recline at His table and wait for and with Him.

A rhythm of prayer in my own life, has taken the form of a breath prayer. Breathing in slowly I pray, "My soul, wait in silence for God only..." then exhaling slowly, "for my hope is from Him" (Psalm 62:5). It is a simple way to pull out my chair and sit down at the table He has set... even and perhaps especially in the midst of my distress. To wait with Him, to listen more than speak, to the One who has already overcome (John 16:33). He brings me once again to the truth that He is the everlasting God, who does not become weary or tired, who understands, and strengthens me (Isaiah 40:28-31).

So, let me invite you to take your seat, one that has been reserved for you from the foundations of the world, and enjoy spending time, or may I dare say, your entire life, with the One who has prepared His table for you.

Pastor Jon

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Eugene Peterson, Run with the Horses, p 96-97

# Financial Summary for Dec 2023 Submitted by Lynn Affeldt, Jan 9, 2024

Dec	c Ba	lance	She	eet
-----	------	-------	-----	-----

Ministry & Facility Fund	\$ 71,960
All Designated Funds	\$160,712
Total Mt West Checking	\$232,672

Thrivent Mortgage Balance \$260,531 \$261,859 (Nov)

**Dec Income & Expense** 

Actual Giving \$ 25,115 (Plan for Giving \$21,089) includes \$1,994 Christmas off.

Actual Expense \$ 19,040

YTD Income & Expense (Jan-Dec 2023)

Actual Giving \$289,374 (Plan for Giving \$253,065)

Actual Expense \$244,293

Dec Designated Funds	Income	Expense	Fund Balance
Memorial Fund	0	0	\$ 2,010
Emergency Fund	0	0	\$15,000
Property Fund	0	54	\$ 6,162
Refresh Team	0	0	\$ 276
Good Samaritan Fund	0	0	\$ 5,030
Sabbatical Fund (accrual)	100	0	\$ 6,000
Reception/Kitchen Fund	0	0	\$ 2,124
Campership Fund	0	0	\$ 1,947
Dorcas Fund	480	500	\$ 1,613
Youth Fund	60	0	\$ 5,538
Uganda Fund (\$300 accrual)	2,150	750	\$ 1,775
Other Misc Designated	350	0	\$ 4,044
Scholarship Fund	0	0	\$ 100
Audio/Visual Fund	0	0	\$ 7,708
Snow Plowing Fund	0	30	\$ 2,790
Internship Fund	0	0	\$ 243
Capital Fund	0	0	\$20,400
Signage	0	0	\$ 7,500
Safety Team	0	0	\$ 950
Pathway Project	100	0	\$11,068
Insurance Claim	26,672	82	\$58,435
~ ~ ~ ~	~	~ ~	~ ~ ~



**At the Annual Meeting** we voted on the disbursement of 2023 net carryover: \$25,000 to Capital Fund for kitchen remodel; \$3,210 to replenish the Snowplow Fund; \$4,200 to create a new Seminary Fund; \$400 to replenish the Scholarship Fund; \$940 as an extra gift to Family Promise; \$10,000 to infuse the Uganda Fund (possible mission in 2024).

Thanks to Wayne & Zala Neustel for recently refilling every sanitizer bottle in the sanctuary. We are freshened up!

**Food Bank:** Thank you to Teresa Baillie for delivering our donations to the Post Falls Food Bank in Jan – **250+ lbs** (212 lbs were diapers in cases delivered by a Good Samaritan and left on our doorstep!)! **Please** double check expiration dates before making donations and **NO** 18-count egg cartons, thanks!

**Kitchen Donations:** We need dinner-sized & dessert paper plates, paper bowls **(no Styrofoam please),** white vinegar, hand soap refill size, and case(s) of bottled water. Mini-moos creamers (non-refrigerated kind) are always an extra delight! Giftin-kind donation receipts are available in the church office. *Thank you always for these extras!* 

# **Annual Meeting Roundup**

Thank you for attending the Annual Meeting, voting for new council members and delegates, net carryover allotment and a new budget to operate in 2024. Every item passed unanimously. The horrible weather couldn't squash our joy and delight at viewing renderings of our new kitchen to come or this 2023 recap https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tPtmrXg6sCc. The new Council will be installed and blessed Feb 4 during worship. Please keep this body of folks in your prayers throughout the year as they work on behalf of our church!

#### **New Members!**

We are excited for the group of new members who will be gathering with Pastor Jon on **Thu, Feb 1, at 6 pm** for an evening of orientation, information Q&A plus a lovely meal served by our Fellowship Team! If you would like to join together in ministry here at Peace, please contact Pastor Jon to let him know you're attending. We'll receive new members during worship on **Sunday**, **Feb 4**, and have special fellowship time together afterward. Welcome to all!

# **Beginning! Revelation Study**

We gather every two weeks on Sunday after church in the fellowship hall to watch a video lesson and discuss what we are learning and reading. All are welcome to attend and read along with us! - Karen Robison, Study Leader

#### Why Revelation?

The book of Revelation (singular) unveils a Person: Jesus Christ! From beginning to end, the book focuses on Jesus Christ. It is His revelation to the Apostle John. The prophetic (not allegorical) book shows His authority over His World, His victory over satan, His return in glory and His rule and reign. We see who Jesus is, what He has done and what He will do...bringing about the eternal plan of His Holy and promise-keeping Father.

John wrote Revelation to suffering Christians who needed encouragement... Do you need encouragement? Do you feel overwhelmed? Where do you look for the future? More than any facts or figures, this book will help us walk with a deeper reliance upon and faith in God, who holds all things together (Colossians 1:17). May this book encourage you; may it bless you as you read it, hear it and keep it... applying what you learn today and tomorrow.

## **Revelation Study Schedule:**

Before the first meeting, view this video: Revelation, an Introduction

Week 1: Meeting Sunday, January 28th to read Revelation 1:1-11 and view this video Done! Week 2: Reading Revelation 1:12-2:7 and viewing this video, on own

Week 3: Meeting Sunday, February 11th: to read Revelation 2:8-17 and view this video Week 4: Reading Revelation 2:12-17 and viewing this video, on own

Week 5: Meeting Sunday, February 25th: to read Revelation 2:18-29 and view this video Week 6: Reading Revelation 3:1-13 and viewing this video, on own

Week 7: Meeting Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> to read Revelation 3:14-22 and view this video Week 8: Reading Revelation 4:1-2 and viewing this video, on own

Week 9: Meeting Sunday, March 24th to read Revelation 4 and 5 and view this video Week 10: Reading Revelation 6 and viewing this video, on own

#### Our Lenten Journey this Year

The Lenten season will look a little different than in the past. We're following through with past suggestions that the Ash Wed service be moved to earlier in the day. The service, with the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion, will be held at 10 am instead of bible study that day. Pastors Gail and Steve will conduct the traditional service to which you are accustomed. If you are unable to make the early service here, Pastor Steve welcomes you to join him at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2511 S Pines Rd, Spokane Valley, for the 7 pm service there. He would love to see you.

Our Lenten journey continues each Wed with soup suppers and study with soup at 5:30 pm and study at 6 pm (see page 4), an earlier beginning to the evening. During Holy Week, we'll celebrate Palm Sunday, observe Maundy Thu service with Holy Communion at 7 pm, and we'll return on Good Friday at Noon. Last year's 12-3 pm come and go service was well received, but this year we'll gather for the hour. Easter is earlier this year on Mar 31, with two services at 8:30 and 10 am. He Is Risen!

# Men's Group

Mondays, February 5th & 12th 6:00pm - 7:15pm

February 5<sup>th</sup> The Good Shepherd John 10

Dead Man Rising John 11 February 12<sup>th</sup>



We will then take a break during Lent and join in the Midweek Soup Suppers and Bible Studio Time as we focus on The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) as well as The Small Catechism.



# Wednesday nights 5:30-6:30 pm February 21 - March 20, 2024

5:30pm - Soups On 6:00pm - Bible Studio focusing on The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) and Luther's Small Catechism.

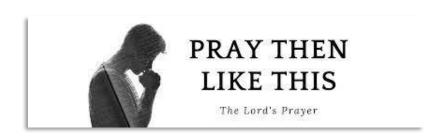
There will also be Bible time and activities for youth and children. This is a weekly PLC All-Family Event!

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done February 21

February 28 Give us this day our daily bread

March 6 Forgive us our sins

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil March 13 March 20 For thine is the kingdom, power, and glory forever





# Saint Paul Lutheran Seminary (SPLS)

exists to provide churches with exceptional education and mission resources.

# Two Online courses for church members and Pastors available from St. Paul Seminary:

# Our Neighbors of Jewish Heritage

On Feb. 6, 2024, at 7PM Central (5pm PST), for six weeks, we'll be starting a course entitled "Our Neighbors - of Jewish Heritage." The course will focus on the Jewish roots of our Christian faith and how we bring the Gospel to both Jews and Gentiles. The discussions will include Jewish Apologetics, Jewish Culture and History, Giving Your Testimony, Modern Jewish History, Current Events, and Helping Lead Someone to Jesus.

# C. S. Lewis and Lutheran Theology

This seminar course (limited to twelve students) examines the literature of C.S. Lewis, in particular the Chronicles of Narnia (all seven books), and the space trilogy (Out of the Silent Planet, Perelandra, and That *Hideous Strength*) from a Lutheran theological perspective. The course begins on January 29th at 4PM Central (2PM PST) and lasts for 14 weeks.

Both courses will be recorded and can be watched with a small group at your convenience.

If you are interested in one or both of these courses, please contact Pastor Jon and he will get you the link. You can participate in two ways: 1) Attend the courses live via Zoom at the designated times, or 2) Attend with a small group of other interested members of the congregation who can watch the courses recorded at more convenient times and discuss together.

#### Why Saint Paul Lutheran Seminary? It's about servant leaders!

At SPLS our students are trained for service in the church and the world, by leaders with contextual experience, leaders who know the value of real-life applications in the learning process. This "Paul-Timothy" model is a classic approach to preparing servant leaders for the church, recognizing the expertise and experience of those already serving in such capacities as vital to the education of the next generation of pastors, missionaries, and church leaders. The goal of SPLS is to provide the church and the student with generational experience, with "field" experience and with a passion for excellence in carrying out the mission of the Gospel.

Please visit their website to find out more about St. Paul Lutheran Seminary: semlc.org

# **Are You Ready?**

I'm sure you'll agree that Lent is a time of spiritual reflection and introspection. With memories so fresh of recent member losses, pre-planning can save your loved ones from having to make stressful decisions during an emotional time. It has been a saving grace to open our congregational binder and find that a member had taken the time to thoughtfully prepare their wishes for a memorial service. Just simple things like favorite hymns or scriptures they want included, personal info (birth, baptism, confirmation, marriage, etc.), how they were involved in the life of the church, who to contact, etc. Peace has always had an uncomplicated, one-page form which is now available on the wall rack in the hall. You are the guest of honor atyour memorial, so why not be part of the planning? Planning ahead enables you to share your last wishes so that, in the end, you get the remembrance you want with your own personal touches. Need more info? Please speak with Pastor Jon.



# MADE FOR MORE – Open Arms Ladies Tea & Auction Join us for an afternoon of fun. food, and fundraisina!

Each year, we gather ladies from across North Idaho for a time of encouragement and fellowship while raising funds for Open Arms Real Choices Clinic. This is a wonderful opportunity to introduce your friends to Open Arms and the important services we provide for the community. This year, we're taking things to the next level with our new location: The Club at Prairie Falls. Join us on **March 9, 2-4 PM.** Doors open for silent auction at 12:30 pm. *Mark your calendar!* 

Enjoy delicious food, great company, and bid on amazing items in our silent auction. As we gather together, let's remember the words from Esther 4:14 - "perhaps you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this." This event is not to be missed! We are raising a battle cry and calling forth brave women to take their place in the kingdom. You have a part to play and a unique purpose to fulfill. Join us as we link arms and embark on an epic journey.

# Winter Bible Study Groups

**Sun Adult Study:** Pastor Jon & Karen will present a book of the bible per month. Exodus is extended by popular demand! Galatians will begin Feb 25. Please join us at 8:30 am in the fellowship hall.

KidZone: A special message time for kids during worship with Pastor Jon, then off for special KidZone for activities!

Mon Men's Group: The men's John study continues at 6 pm with Pastor Jon on Feb 5 & 12. It's potluck!

Tue Matins: Pastor Jon welcomes you to the sanctuary for quiet prayer time at 7:30 am (no Matins Feb 20).

**Wed Bible Study**: Pastor Gail continues leading Luke this month. Drop in anytime during this continuing study at 9:45 am to share prayer concerns and pray together before the study begins at 10 am.

All children are welcome to participate in Sunday School (KidZone) right after the Kid's Message during worship. Children will learn one Bible verse each week, with the goal of memorizing Scripture. What if we could all memorize 52 verses this year? Students will also hear all the books of the Bible sung in order and participate in prayer time and activities. If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering in our children's ministry, please contact Karen Robison.

#### Feb Verses to Learn:

**Feb 4:** Psalm 139:14: I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

Feb 11: Psalm 150:6: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

**Feb 18:** John 3:16-17: For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

**Feb 25:** Deuteronomy 6:4-5: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

# **PLC Weekly Calendar & Events**

Mon: Dorcas, 9 am; Staff, 10 am

Tue: Matins, 7:30 am; Chorale, 5-9:30 pm

**Wed:** Bible Study, 10 am; Music, 6:30 pm **Thu:** TOPS, 8 am

Chorale Board 4th Mon 6:30 pm | Council 2nd Tue, 6 pm | Button Club 2nd Wed 12 pm | 4-H Group 4th Thu 6 pm

Feb 1: New Member Orientation, 6 pm

Feb 4: Installation of Council; New Member Sunday!

Feb 6: P&M Team, 6 pm | Feb 7: Fellowship Team, 11 am

Feb 10: Bearl Carlisle Memorial, 11 am

Feb 11 & 25: Revelation Book Club, noon

Feb 14: Ash Wed service, 10 am; Button Club, noon

Feb 14-20: Pastor Jon away (conference)

Feb 21: Lenten Soup Supper & Study, 5:30 pm

Feb 22: 4-H Group, 6 pm

Feb 26: Chorale Board, 6:30 pm

Feb 28: Lenten Soup Supper & Study, 5:30 pm

Mar 5: P&M Team, 6 pm | Mar 6: Fellowship Team, 11 am

Mar 6: Lenten Soup Supper & Study, 5:30 pm

Mar 13: Button Club, noon; Lenten Soup Supper & Study, 5:30 pm

Mar 20: Lenten Soup Supper & Study, 5:30 pm

Mar 25: Chorale Board, 6:30 pm

Mar 28: No 4-H group; Maundy Thu service, 7 pm

Mar 29: Good Friday service, 12-1 pm Mar 31: Easter Services 8:30 & 10 am Apr 1: Easter Monday, Office Closed



## **Feb Sunday Ministry Servants**

	Ushers	Acolyte	Reader	Communion
Feb 4	Heidi E, Larry F	Kendall A	Bonnie H	Troy & Gail T, Darlene B
Feb 11	Woody & Debbie C	Keegan R	David K	Ed & Catherine R, Rick S
Feb 18	Mitch & Cindy M	Landry A	Roy V	Paul & Lisa S, Tammi J
Feb 25	Patty S, Barb H	Colt K	Maren S	Paul & Shelly M, Lynn A

Thank you to Ken & Rita Birge for setting the Lord's table, and Patty Stills for baking the bread in Feb.

Scripture readings are provided to our readers for review on Wednesday for the coming Sunday.

Many thanks to Barb Nimke for scheduling assistants. Please let the office know of any changes – thank you!

	Counters	Safety Team	KidZone
Feb 4	Barb N & Julie J	Doyle & Rick	Karen R
Feb 11	Maren S & Chris C	Gordon & Darrell	Shelly M
Feb 18	Maren S & Chris C	Jim & Colby	Sam P
Feb 25	Lee E & Roy V	Karle & John	

Look for the Wed Lenten soup supper signups on the table in the fellowship hall.

It's so good to gather for a meal and study together!



# Our Everlasting Father Is with You in Every Season

With the change of the year, I have found myself thinking a lot about time. It is a hard concept to grasp, isn't it? In some seasons, time inches forward with painful, sluggish slowness. In others, it hurriedly flies by too quickly to compute or comprehend. Likewise, endings can be hard to fathom. Books end. Groups end. Jobs end. Years end. Ending can be emotional. Time and its passage can create anxiety and questions. And so we root ourselves in God's Word. In Him.

While the season of Advent has ended and time has determinedly marched forward, I find myself continuing to linger over Isaiah 9:6: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." This verse is prophetically proclaiming the redemption of God's people and the titles and characteristics of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, who will rule the earth with blessings and peace that will have no end.

One of His titles or traits is "Everlasting Father." When translated from the Hebrew, it literally means "Father of Eternity." The word "Father" is the primary noun, the emphasis. "Everlasting" is the descriptive word. He, God, part of the Trinity, is Father forever, without end. In Isaiah's time, while humanity was made up of broken and sinful people, like today, fathers were expected to protect and provide for their families. This is what Jesus, God with us does (Matthew 1:23). This Messiah, this child to be born 700 years after these words were written, will provide for and protect His people. And His role as protector and provider will not be limited by aging or death, but will continue forever.

Being a child of God means we, through faith, have been adopted into God's family (John 1:12-13, 1 John 5:1). It is God's great love and Jesus' willing sacrifice which takes the initiative to make us the children of God. "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" (1 John 3:1). That is what we are! We belong to Him, in this season and in the next, through the fast-paced times and the slow pangs wondering and waiting on time's passage, we are His. No longer slaves or orphans, but His sons and daughters (Galatians 4:4-7). We have a good, good father who loves us, protects us and provides for us. Though this sometimes looks different than we would like, He will continue to do so, forever.

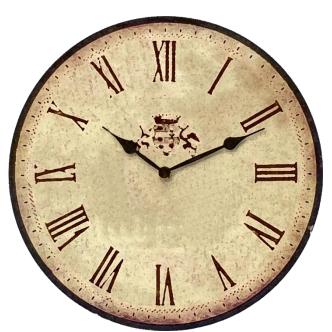
While we live in a time-centered world...**He** transcends time (Psalm 102:12, 2 Peter 3:8).

While we are weak and our lives short...He is all-powerful and lives forever (Psalm 90:10, 93:2, Isaiah57:15).

While we don't know what the next season may bring, He does. He planned our lives before the ages began (Psalm 139:16, Ephesians 1:4, 2 Timothy 1:9).

In whatever season you find yourself, please know that God, the creator of time, our Everlasting Father, is with you. And you are in His care and love, forever.

Karen Robison, Minister of Word & Service



# We're Praying For...

Jody Haggard, surgery Feb 28; Roxanne Helgeson, biopsy; Family of Bearl Carlisle in his passing; Roy Anderson, fractured vertebrae; Joyce Beghtel, Joan Ross, Jim & Carolyn Umland, Helen Burge, Jim & Peggy Cutler, Sharon Alexander, for healing.

Danyel Ward (Jennifer Murray) severe Crohn's disease; Dane Bowers (Charolotte Newman's grandson); Ariana (Jerry Bittner) safety in Ecuador; Marge Holand (Cindy Magnus' mom) cancer, hip healing; Stephanie Moore (Lisa Fisher's niece) pancreatic cancer; Infant Logan (Cadys) premature birth, gaining weight!; Jason (Jeannine Frisque's friend) heart & health issues; Tiffany Kimbrel (Cadys) kidney transplant list; Ed (Sharon Alexander's friend) health issues; JoAnn Solberg, healing, back surgery; Pr Larry Cudmore, lung cancer; Merritt (Vervair's grandson) seizures; Michelle Baugh (Howland's niece) food poisoning; Jim (friend of Andersons) ALS; Deborah Cummins (Burge's DIL) cancer; Bill Alexander (Sharon's husband) health issues; Shana Miller (Maren Snyder's cousin) breast cancer; Jim Greenough (Kristin Gorman's brother) stomach cancer.

### **Pray for Our Ministry Partners:**

Safe Passage, **Family Promise**, Orchard Ridge, Open Arms, Juvenile Justice Outreach, Lutherhaven Ministries, Ecumenical Food Kitchen, Champ's Heart, Summit Christian Academy, Good Samaritan Rehab, Food Banks, Voice of the Martyrs, Union Gospel Mission, Uganda Medical Mission, OCC Shoebox Gifts, and LCMC. (PLC benevolence of the month in **bold**)

Prayer requests will be revised periodically for space. Kindly keep the church office informed of changes. Thank you.



Winter Glory, North Idaho

Photo Credit: Kathryn Park

#### **Lutherhaven Ministries**

Now Hiring: Awesome summer jobs are available at Camp Lutherhaven on Lake Coeur d'Alene and Shoshone Mountain Retreat on the CDA River. Needed: Camp counselors, lifeguards, kitchen staff, wranglers, ropes staff, media assistants and hospitality staff...all sorts of jobs open at summer camp! Flexible dates available; positions can extend into spring and fall outdoor education roles or can shorten into partial summer season roles. Come for adventure and spend your summer playing outdoors, strengthening your relationships with God and others, and growing in servant leader leadership.

Back to Camp events are available for youth and groups in Jan & Feb. The Women's Retreat is coming up Mar 15-17, and always a wondrous weekend just taking a walk by the lake, spending time with friends new and old, or simply doing some much needed (and well deserved) relaxing.

Please register for all events at <a href="https://www.lutherhaven.com/">https://www.lutherhaven.com/</a>



8134 N Meyer Rd (at Prairie Ave & Meyer Rd) Post Falls, ID 83854

Phone: (208) 765-0727

Website: www.peace-lutheran.church Email: office@peace-lutheran.church

Sun Adult Study 8:30 AM Sun Worship at 10 AM Wed Bible Study 10 AM

Pastor Jon Anderson

Pastor Emeritus, Gail Gutterud